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EXPRESS IN U.S.

MEETS TOP CEOs AT BLOOMBERG GLOBAL BUSINESS FORUM

Modi reaches out to US investors: Come to India, will personally act as a bridge

Invites investment across sectors, from defence and infra to start-ups



SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 25

ASSURING THAT he will "personally act as a bridge" if there is

any gap, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday pitched India as "the only destination" for American investment across a range of sectors — from defence to start-ups, infrastructure to urbanisation.

On the economic environment, he said India's "democracy" and its "judiciary being in English" are key advantages for potential investors.

Addressing the Bloomberg global business forum in New York, with "Come to India" as his

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Prime Minister Modi with Bill and Melinda Gates in New York Wednesday. Their foundation honoured him with the Global Goalkeeper award for the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. PTI PAGE 6

Chinmayanand case: Sexual assault victim is held, sent to jail

SIT says extortion but admits it has no evidence of money changing hands

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 25

A MONTH after she accused former Union minister and BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand of sexual assault, the Uttar Pradesh police Wednesday arrested the Shahjahanpur law student on charges of extortion. She was arrested in the morning in a case filed by Chinmayanand's lawyer and sent to 14 days judicial custody.

Her father, meanwhile, said police had no evidence against her and were trying to "save" Chinmayanand.

While Chinmayanand was arrested by the SIT on September 20, his lawyer Om Singh had lodged an FIR against unidentified persons for allegedly sending threatening messages to Chinmayanand's cellphone and demanding Rs 5 crore. The FIR was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



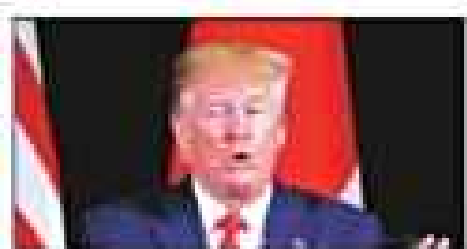
He was arrested on Sept 20

EXPLAINED

Question mark on main case

THE STUDENT'S testimony was key to the arrest of Chinmayanand. Her arrest puts a question mark on the sexual assault case itself. The fact that no money changed hands undermines the police case.

WORLD



IMPEACHMENT CLOUD GETS BIGGER

PAGE 16

Yogi announces Rs 6,000 a year to each triple talaq victim

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 25

REACHING OUT to victims of triple talaq and women abandoned by their husbands, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Wednesday made a slew of announcements for their welfare including financial assistance of Rs 6,000 per year and free legal aid to every such woman. He also warned of strict against Hindu men who take a second wife.

At an event in Lucknow under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CBI officer who led investigation in Asthana case seeks voluntary retirement

Satish Dagar's exit comes after HC gave CBI 4 months to wrap up probe

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

THE INVESTIGATING officer (IO) in the alleged corruption case against former CBI special director Rakesh Asthana has sought voluntary retirement from service.

In a letter dated August 19, Superintendent of Police (CBI) Satish Dagar made the request for voluntary retirement under Rule 48 of the Central Civil Services pension Rules 1972 with effect from December 1, 2019. Under the rule, officers seeking voluntary retirement must serve the minimum notice period of three months.

While Dagar did not respond to queries on why he has sought voluntary retirement and if his request has been accepted, the



SP Satish Dagar wants to retire with effect Dec 1

timing of his move has raised eyebrows within the agency. On May 31, Delhi High Court granted the CBI four months to complete its investigation in the Asthana matter.

A CBI spokesperson did not comment on the status of Dagar's request but confirmed that the officer "applied for VRS on personal grounds". It remains

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Don't repeat 1971, think of what may happen to PoK: Rajnath warns Pak

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 25

REMINING ISLAMABAD of the breakup of Pakistan in 1971 and the creation of Bangladesh, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Wednesday warned Pakistan not to repeat "the mistake of 1971".

Addressing a programme in Jaipur to mark the 103rd birth anniversary of Jan Sanghi ideologue



At the commissioning ceremony of Coast Guard ship Varaha, in Chennai. PTI

Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, Singh said, "Brothers and sisters, we will rather lose an election than deceive you, because we don't do politics only to form government but to form the country. And by ending Articles 370 and 35A, we have shown that there is no difference between what BJP says and what it does."

The Defence Minister also said that following the Pulwama terror attack, India took great

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

2 Dalit children killed in MP for 'defecating' in open, 2 arrested

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 25

TWO DALIT children, a 10-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl, were allegedly beaten to death for defecating in the open in Bhavkhedi village of Shivpuri district in Madhya Pradesh Wednesday morning.

Police said they have arrested two brothers — Hakim Yadav

and Rameshwar Yadav — from the village in Sirsod police station limits, about 15 km from the district headquarters. The boy's father, Manoj Valmiki, told police in his complaint the brothers objected to his son Avinash and sister Roshni defecating in the open near their house and beat them to death with sticks.

Police have booked the two brothers under IPC Section 302

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Govt roadmap to recoup loss from tax cuts: Sale of land, stake in firms

SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

IN A bid to compensate for revenue loss due to last week's corporate tax rate cuts, the Centre is working on a three-pronged strategy: fast-track monetisation of idle state-owned land, strategic stake sale in key companies, and sale of residual stake in other state-run firms, sources told *The Indian Express*.

The reduction in corporate tax rates is set to cost Rs 1.45 lakh crore annually. The government has maintained that it would

keep its fiscal deficit target of 3.3 per cent of GDP by March 2020.

The companies identified for strategic stake sale include BPCL, Container Corporation of India (CONCOR) and Air India. A complete sale of government holding in BPCL and CONCOR alone can fetch the government Rs 73,745 crore at Wednesday's closing price.

The government holds 53.29 per cent stake in BPCL with current market capitalisation of Rs 100,816 crore, and 54.8 per cent in CONCOR with market capitalisation of Rs 36,536 crore.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IITs have a plan: Weak students to exit in 3 yrs with BSc in engineering

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

THE COUNTRY'S premier engineering institutes, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), may permit academically weak students to exit early, after three years, with a B.Sc. degree in engineering.

The proposal is on the agenda of the IIT Council meeting called Friday, *The Indian Express* has learned. The Council, headed by the Human Resource Development Minister, is the highest decision-making body of all the 23 institutes.

Currently, students enrolled in undergraduate programmes across all IITs are awarded a B.Tech degree after completing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



IIT Kharagpur

ALSO ON THE AGENDA

- Entrepreneurship as an optional minor paper with 15 credits at undergrad level.
- Joint degree programs of PhD among IITs
- Action plan to deal with agents approaching IITs to help improve ranking

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TESTIMONIAL

I owe my success to the whole Nirvana IAS Academy team for guiding me throughout my journey. My success today is because of the proficiency and expertise of the teachers at Nirvana and their immense faith in their students.

"When I first decided to pursue civil services, I was very skeptical about the process, full of doubts with numerous questions in my mind. Then one of my seniors from graduation days (who himself is an IAS Officer) told me about Nirvana. After the mandatory and insightful counselling session with Karan Sir, I had a very positive feeling and surprisingly I found the process relatively 'not rocket science'."

Nirvana played a very crucial role in my success, especially with regards to my GS preparation. The explicit focus on current affairs has prepared me to keep on rolling with the changing pattern of the civil services exam at all stages. Karan Sir's classroom discussions have been a guiding light in making sure that we don't just pass the exam but also understand the world around us. He makes sure that the journey at Nirvana makes us all better citizens and be of service to the society. Ruby Ma'am also gave great tips for the CSAT paper and made sure that the paper is more of a fun exercise than an uphill task. She was instrumental in helping me choose Law as my optional subject. Yudhira Sir's history classes were also interesting with deep understanding of events and their consequences in today's world.

"Only those succeed, who don't get bogged down by the complexities and challenges of life and instead use them as the stepping stones to glory." These words stand true to Karan Sir's approach towards the preparation process as well as general attitude towards life. I am very grateful to him and hope that this association and friendship remains for life.

The dedication and commitment of the teachers at Nirvana and their ability to make the classes so interesting is a superlative effort which is unmatched. The underlying key to the success of Nirvana is the ability of the teachers to relate to the students and identify their strengths and weaknesses which are ultimately helpful to provide personal guidance to all of them as per their need. I deeply acknowledge Nirvana IAS Academy for providing me knowledge which has helped me change my dream and in making me capable of achieving them.

Shubham Gupta, AIR-6, CSE 2018

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WEB EXCLUSIVE



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WEALTH OF THE RICHEST INDIANS IN THE PAST YEAR

According to the Hurun India Rich List 2019, released by the Hurun Report India and IIFL Wealth on Wednesday, the richest Indian saw their average wealth decline by 11 per cent over the past year.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



EMRAAN HASHMI

'Bard of Blood is a realistic and entertaining series'

FULL COVERAGE



'WILL PRESENT MYSELF WILLINGLY BEFORE ED'

Sharad Pawar after being booked

EXPRESS AUDIO

What can a Multipurpose Identity card be used for?

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

On today's episode of 3 Things, we discuss the origins of the multipurpose id card project, how it may help schemes, and if there are any drawbacks

MLAs have democratic right to quit, Karnataka Speaker tells apex court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

COMING TO the defence of the disqualified Karnataka MLAs, the state Assembly Speaker on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that legislators have a "democratic right" to resign and urged the court to lay down guidelines for Speakers so that such controversies can be avoided in future.

The bench headed by Justice N V Ramana, however, wondered how it could accede to the prayer to lay down guidelines, as the Speaker is a Constitutional authority.

"How can we lay down guidelines for the Speaker? He is a constitutional authority," the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Krishna Murai, said. "We cannot encroach in his domain."

The top court was hearing petitions by the 17 disqualified Karnataka MLAs challenging the decision of then Speaker K R Ramesh Kumar, who had refused to accept their resignations and had instead disqualified them.

Appearing for the office of the Speaker, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said that while legislators can be disqualified for giving up membership of a political party, they cannot be disqualified for giving up membership of the House. An MLA who does not agree with the views of

his party and resigns from the membership of the House can go back to the electorate and seek a fresh mandate, Mehta said.

This, he contended, is "recognition of the right to resign.... Loyalty to the party is one thing, but you cannot be blindfolded by the party's whip."

Mehta said the Speaker only has to see whether a resignation is voluntary. While an MLA changing political parties will amount to defection, he or she resigning from membership of the House and then shifting to another party would not, he added.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for some of the MLAs, said there was no rule that the disqualification ought to be decided first while the resignation was kept pending. He requested the bench to either stay the forthcoming bypolls in the state or defer them until the question is decided.

Appearing for one of the MLAs, senior advocate Sajan Poovayya said his client had resigned protesting the then H D Kumaraswamy government's move to allot 3,500 acres in his constituency to a private company.

Mehta also urged the court to lay down guidelines for the Speaker, stating that similar issues may come up again and should be settled once and for all.

Karnataka's new Speaker is BJP MLA Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri.

Man held for raping and blackmailing Kerala teen

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
SEPTEMBER 25

POLICE HAVE arrested a youth on charges of sexually abusing a 19-year-old woman and extorting money from her after threatening to circulate her nude photos on the social media.

The victim's family had complained to Union Home Minister Amit Shah that it was a case of "love jihad" and there was an attempt to convert the woman.

The accused Muhammed Jassim (19) is from Naduvanoor in Kozhikode Rural district and the Christian woman is from Kozhikode city. Jassim has been charged with rape, criminal intimidation and extortion and remanded in judicial custody. It is learnt that Jassim and the woman have been classmates.

According to the woman's father, she had gone to a park in

Kozhikode with two friends on July 25 and Jassim offered them juice. "The juice given to my daughter was spiked and she fell unconscious. When she woke up, she found herself naked in the restroom of the park. He blackmailed her and demanded money and ornaments. He took Rs 40,000 and gold sovereigns."

The woman's father said that after she informed the family of the harassment, they approached police, but there was no action. It was only after the family met senior officers that an FIR was registered. "The police did not act on my complaint. They harassed her by making her repeat her statement. I took up the matter with the Union government as no other girl should face such a situation," said her father.

The accused surrendered before police on Tuesday. Sources said they have not come across any evidence yet to suggest an attempt to convert the woman.

MP govt nod to indirect polls for mayor posts, BJP cries foul

MILIND GHATAWAI
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 25

THE CONGRESS government in Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday cleared a proposal to hold indirect elections for the posts of mayors and presidents of municipal bodies. The BJP responded by accusing the ruling party of subverting democracy as it was scared of defeat.

Currently, voters cast two votes, one to elect the mayor or the president, and the other to elect the councillor in their respective wards. The MP cabinet cleared the proposal to amend the laws governing municipal corporations and other municipal bodies which will entail councillors choosing one among them as mayor or president. Elections to municipal bod-

ies are approaching. Currently, the BJP has mayors in all 16 municipal corporations. The BJP alleged that asking councillors to elect mayor or president will lead to horse-trading.

"The Congress is certain of its defeat in the municipal elections. Nine months into power, the party has realised it could not fulfill promises it made before the Assembly elections," said Leader of Opposition Gopal Bhargava. He also said that there is every possibility that the Congress will misuse the administration to win over councillors.

Former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan termed the decision an assault on democracy. Demanding that the old system continue, he alleged that the proposal for indirect elections will promote corrupt practices.

FROM PAGE ONE

PM reaches out

punchline, Modi said: "Your desires and our dreams match perfectly, your technology and our talent can change the world, your scale and our skills can speed up global economic growth. Your prudent method and our pragmatic mind can write new stories in management, your rational ways and our human values can show the path which the world is looking for. And if there is any gap anywhere, I will personally act as a bridge."

Modi said: "India is waiting for you... India is the only destination... I am ready to welcome you."

The Prime Minister later met the CEOs of top American companies, including Lockheed Martin, Bank of America, Shell and Coca Cola, for a roundtable meeting. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) tweeted that the agenda included "harnessing investment opportunities in India and boosting commercial linkages between India and USA".

The PMO also tweeted video clips of the CEOs reacting after the interaction. While Shell CEO Ben van Beurden described Modi's speech as "strong and comprehensive", Coca Cola CEO James Quincey said he was "really excited to be in the Prime Minister's investment summit".

Describing the meeting as "excellent", Lockheed Martin CEO Marillyn Hewson congratulated India on its "pro-growth policies". "I went to the meeting... optimistic but I come out even more optimistic about India," said IBM CEO Ginni Rometty.

Earlier, at the business forum, Modi pointed out that India's youth is one of the largest users of the app economy — from food to transport and movies to hyper-local delivery — and said that there were start-ups everywhere. "Thus, if you want to invest in start-ups with a huge market, come to India," he said.

"Our infrastructure creation is expanding at an unprecedented pace. From highways to metros, from railways to ports, from airports to logistics, each sector is seeing massive investment and tremendous potential. Thus, if you want to invest in one of the world's largest infrastructure ecosystem, come to India," he said.

"We are rapidly modernising our cities, and equipping them with latest technology and citizen friendly infrastructure. Thus, if you want to invest in urbanisation, come to India," Modi said.

"We have opened our defence sector like never before. If you want to Make in India, for India and for the world, come to India," he said.

He then listed out the achievements of his government and how it has reduced the time taken for companies to get power connections and cited several improvements in global rankings on ease of doing business. He also spoke about efforts in "de-bottlenecking" to facilitate business.

Speaking about economic environment in India during an interactive session with Michael Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg and former Mayor of New York, Modi said that no one can do any isolated economic activity in the country and are "interdependent".

India's "judiciary being in English" makes it an attractive destination for foreign investors, Modi said, since it ensures "uniform interpretation" of laws and agreements. Later, Bloomberg and Modi announced a partnership to step up global investment in India.

CBI officer

unclear if Dagar will continue to be the investigating officer in the case of criminal conspiracy and corruption filed against Asthana and other senior officers in October 2018.

registered a day after she went missing after uploading a video on Facebook accusing Chinmayanand of sexual assault.

In it, Singh alleged the caller had threatened to malign Chinmayanand's image with a video if the demands were not met. Singh also claimed he had a video of the law student and three young men speaking about the extortion call. Police earlier arrested Sanjay Singh, Vikram alias Durgesh and Sachin alias Sonu Sengar in the extortion case.

The SIT arrested the woman from her residence in Shahjahanpur, a day after she filed for anticipatory bail. The court has directed the SIT to file its response to the plea and

fixed Thursday as the next date of hearing. SIT sources, however, said they were yet to find evidence of money being paid. "We have not found any evidence that any money was exchanged between the four persons booked in the extortion case and Chinmayanand," said an SIT officer.

The BJP issued a statement that Chinmayanand has had no link with the party for several years. "Chinmayanand is not a BJP member and there is no record of his membership. He was not holding any responsibility in the party for several years," said BJP UP state spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi.

He said he would have to check with the party's Shahjahanpur district presi-

dent about Chinmayanand's status in the BJP. When contacted, BJP's Shahjahanpur district president, Rakesh Mishra Anawa, said, "I will not say anything about Chinmayanand," and directed all queries regarding Chinmayanand to BJP leaders in Lucknow.

The SIT, formed by the UP government on directions of the Supreme Court, said all legal procedures were followed before arresting the woman. Government counsel Lal Sahab Singh said: "SIT produced the woman before the court of Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Vineet Narain Pandey, who sent her to 14 days judicial custody. The court today also rejected the woman's bail application filed today."

Earlier, the SIT claimed that the three men arrested had confessed to sending threat messages to Chinmayanand.

"On Wednesday, an SIT team went to her residence after obtaining an FSL report of the video clip in which she and three men are seen speaking about Rs 5 crore extortion call made to Chinmayanand," said an SIT officer, adding that the FSL report stated there no tampering done to the video clip.

According to SIT sources, the purported video of the woman was shot by a driver, Anoop, in whose car she and three men were travelling. The SIT has seized the car. "The SIT so far has not found any evidence pointing to Anoop's role in the case," said SIT officer.

'There's no proof against her, this is just pressure'

men were arrested on September 20. The court had directed the SIT to file its reply to the plea and fixed Thursday as the next date of hearing.

"The court had yesterday asked SIT to bring all documents related to the case. Since the SIT had no evidence against my daughter, and felt she may get bail, they arrested her. We will be moving a contempt of court plea tomorrow," her father said.

"We are now sure the SIT was working on directions from the state government... Since day one, they wanted to save Chinmayanand in the case. Despite evidence against him and my daughter's state-

ment, the SIT never booked Chinmayanand on rape charges. On the direction of the state government, the SIT wanted to build pressure on us so that we stopped pursuing the case against Chinmayanand," he said.

Chinmayanand was arrested on September 20 in the sexual assault case but has been booked under Section 376-C of the IPC — sexual intercourse by a person in authority.

Her father said the SIT had Tuesday also attempted to arrest his daughter when she was on her way to the anticipatory bail hearing. "The SIT stopped my daughter a short distance from court. SIT offi-

cials were trying to take her with them. My daughter called me and I rushed to the spot with a few lawyers. When we raised objections, the SIT allowed her to attend court proceeding. The SIT was present in court yesterday through the hearing," he said.

According to her brother, the SIT Wednesday arrived at their home "on the pretext" of speaking to the woman. "After talking to my sister for a few minutes, the SIT told us they were arresting her. When my sister objected and refused to go with them, an SIT officer dragged her inside a car and took her away," he said.

"The SIT took my sister

barefoot and they did not even allow her to change her clothes," he said, adding that one policeman also twisted his sister's hand when she refused to leave with them.

"The SIT also misbehaved with other family members of the house when they raised objections. The SIT's behaviour is in complete contrast to how they arrested Chinmayanand. He was given full honour because of his link with the BJP. Since we are ordinary persons and showed courage to fight against Chinmayanand, the SIT misbehaved with our family threatened them. The SIT also pushed me and my father when we objected," he said.

Gurmeet Ram Rahim.

Yogi announces

Karyakram, where he met around 300 victims of triple talaq, Adityanath said: "Educated women should be absorbed in government jobs while arrangements should be made to provide them shelter and education under different schemes. These women should be covered under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana or the Mukhya Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan," he said.

"Women who have suffered because of triple talaq and those who have been abandoned by their husbands, they should be given Rs 6,000 per year, so they have financial stability. This will help in their rehabilitation," he said, adding that their children should be given free education.

"I was looking at statistics for Uttar Pradesh. There were 273 cases related to triple talaq in the last one year. We got FIRs lodged in all cases. These were cases where Muslim women were exploited and deprived of their rights. Action will be taken against policemen who have failed to take action."

"Our fight does not end with this (triple talaq). Even Hindu men who take more than one wife, torment or abandon the first wife, will face strict action and will not be spared. Our fight is for the dignity of women," he said.

"I would also like to ask the minority welfare department that these Muslim women. If needed, these women should be given rights over Waqf properties in the state."

He said arrangements will be made by the state to fight the cases of triple talaq victims. "I was listening to the problems of triple talaq victims. The home department should make arrangements to fight cases free for triple talaq victims."

He gave directions to the social welfare department and other departments concerned to draw up welfare schemes for the

victims. "Proper schemes should be implemented for the overall development of society and no person should feel neglected," he said, directing officials to identify triple talaq victims and hold such interactive programmes at the divisional level.

IITs have a plan

eight semesters or four years. However, students with weak grades drop out midway.

According to data shared by the HRD Ministry in Parliament this year, 2,461 students dropped out of different IITs in the last two years across B.Tech and post-graduate programmes. These include cases of expulsion on account of weak academic performance. For instance this year, IIT-Kanpur expelled 18 students on the grounds of poor grades, of which half were B.Tech students.

It is for such students the HRD Ministry has proposed that the IITs consider providing an exit option after six semesters. As per the Council agenda, the IITs have been asked to approve the proposal to allow academically weak students to opt for B.Sc. (Engineering) after the second semester and leave after three years, provided they have met the minimum academic standards.

If approved, the IITs will implement the suggestion from the current academic year, said sources.

An estimated 9 lakh students take each cycle of the JEE (main) that's held twice a year — just about 13,500 get an IIT seat.

The Council will also consider a proposal to empower the Board of Governors of an IIT to pick its members and chairperson. Currently, the HRD Ministry appoints them.

This autonomy is on the lines of what has been granted to the IIMs under the new IIM Act. IIT directors, according to the agenda, will continue to be selected by the government. However, apart from the IIT Council's approval, the IIT Act

will also have to be amended to finally empower the IITs.

Rajnath warning

precautions and did not attack Pakistan or its army and targeted only terror training camps in Balakot. He said: "Lekin aagey yadi aisa hi chalta raha, toh kuch kaha nahi ja sakta (but if it continues like this, then things may change)."

He said Pakistan "cannot digest" India's Jammu and Kashmir move, but added, "trust me, it will be digested." On August 5, the Centre moved to scrap the special status of J&K and bifurcated the state into two Union Territories.

"Aur main toh baar baar su-jhav de chuka hun Pakistan ko bhi, ke jo '65 and '71 - '71 mein Pakistan ke do tukde ho gaye the, Pakistan aur Bangladesh ban gaya tha. Maine kaha, '71 ki galti mat dohrana, nahi PoK ka kya hoga, achi tarah samajh lena. (And I have suggested this time and again, even to Pakistan, about (India-Pakistan wars of) 1965 and 1971 - and in 1971, Pakistan was divided and Bangladesh was created. I said don't repeat the mistakes of 1971, else understand well what might happen to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir)," Singh said.

Govt roadmap

As for Air India, sources said, the disinvestment department is already in the process of inviting interest.

The government also aims to partially compensate lower tax collections through residual stake sale and land monetisation.

Assets of nearly three dozen public sector enterprises in various sectors, including power, textiles and fertilisers, are likely to be put up for monetisation. Unused land and residential properties held by these companies, closed industrial units and plants of companies such as SAIL are among assets to be considered for sale.

The government may adopt

different models for land monetisation, including securitising a pool of assets through structures like REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts) and InvITs (Infrastructure Investment Trusts). It may either get successful bidders to make large upfront payment for the assets combined with annual payments, or small or zero upfront payment with annual payments.

The Finance Ministry has already hired 11 consultancy firms for the process. The Ministry is also coming out with initial public offers for three companies: FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Ltd, Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd, and WAPCOS Ltd. The government, in consultation with NITI Aayog, has prepared a list of 29 companies that will be put up for strategic sale to private companies. Residual stake sales, buybacks, strategic sales, land monetisation and complete exit from some of the companies would help the government raise more resources than the targets set out in the Budget, sources said.

Dalit children

(murder) and Section 3(2)(v) of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

According to Collector Anugraha P, the village had earlier been declared open defecation free.

But Valmiki told reporters that they did not have a toilet at home. He alleged that caste discrimination was rampant in the village and that his family had to often wait near the local hand pump before being allowed to take water.

Chief Minister Kamal Nath described the incident as "heart-rending" and ordered that security be provided to the family.

In his complaint, Valmiki said he was chatting with his father and brother outside their house around 6.40 am when the incident happened.

"Rameshwar and Hakim, armed with sticks, ran towards the children asking why they were defecating on the road. Rameshwar hit Roshni on the back of her head twice and once across her eyes. Hakim hit my son twice on the head," Valmiki, a 35-year-old daily wage worker, told police. "When the family reached the spot both the children were dead," he told police.

According to Valmiki, Roshni is the youngest of his six siblings and has been staying with him since the death of their mother four years ago. Valmiki told reporters that there was previous enmity between him and the brothers, linked to a dispute two years ago when he had cut the branch of a tree near a field owned by them. At the time, he said, the brothers had threatened him.

Senior police officers, meanwhile, came up with conflicting versions of the incident.

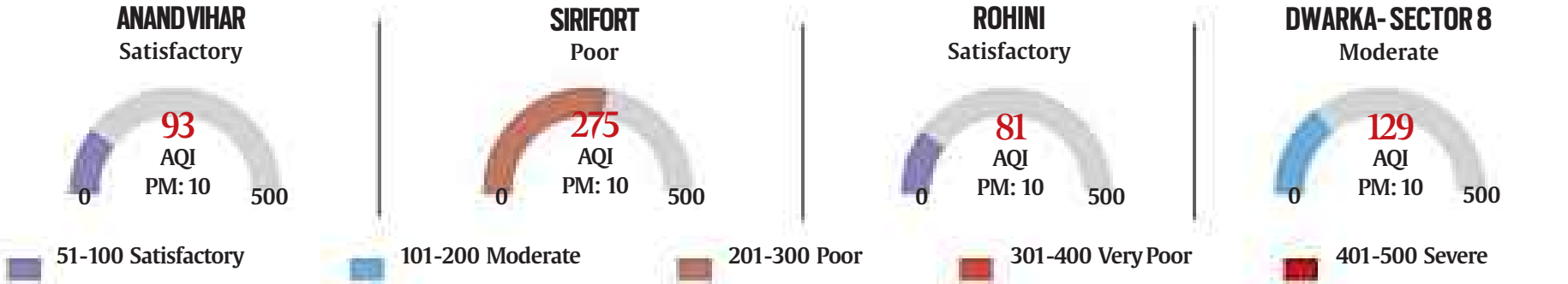
Speaking to *The Indian Express*, IG (Gwalior Range) Rajababu Singh said Hakim appeared to be mentally unstable. He claimed that Hakim and Rameshwar killed the two children when they were on their way to their grandfather's home, and denied that the incident was linked to open defecation.

Shivpuri SP Rajesh Chandel said there was no old enmity between the two families and that police did not have any proof yet to confirm that Hakim was mentally unstable.

DSP (HQ) Veerendra Tomar said the crime appeared to have been committed in the heat of the moment. According to the Collector, Valmiki's family has been provided monetary assistance of Rs 50,000, and another Rs 10,000 to conduct the children's last rites. The family will also receive Rs 4 lakh in compensation under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, he said.

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3 THE CITY @



Kejriwal, Tiwari spar over NRC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal's remarks that Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari will have to leave Delhi in the event of the implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the city triggered a row on Wednesday, with the BJP dubbing the AAP chief "divisive".

Tiwari, who has long advocated the need to have the NRC in Delhi, had recently demanded a probe to find if the accused in the assault of a journalist were "illegal migrants or infiltrators".

When Kejriwal's comments were sought on Tiwari's statement, he said: "Agar NRC Delhi mein laagu hua toh sabse pehle Manoj Tiwari ko Delhi chorni padegi (If NRC is implemented in Delhi, Manoj Tiwari will be the first person who has to leave Delhi)."

Later, AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj challenged Tiwari to produce documents to establish he has a Delhi connection prior to 1971, which is the cut-off year for the NRC in Assam. "The BJP essentially wants to throw Purvanchalis out of the city. For the poor, it becomes difficult to produce documents to even get pensions," he said.

Tiwari told reporters that the CM's comments "reflect his mindset". "He considers people of his own country foreigners. NRCs is not meant for people from UP, Bihar or MP. It is meant to weed out Bangladeshis and Rohingyas."

East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir tweeted: "Arvind Kejriwal, who talks about education, should know that NRC is for people who are not from the country. Going by his statement, even he should leave Delhi as he was born in Haryana."

WILL HELP THEM AVAIL POWER SUBSIDY BENEFITS: KEJRIWAL

In relief for tenants, govt relaxes rules to get prepaid power meter

SOURAV ROY BARMAN & ANANYA TIWARI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

THE DELHI government Wednesday announced a new scheme to rein in landlords charging arbitrary power tariff from tenants by relaxing conditions to install prepaid meters, which was allowed in the capital for the first time in 2017.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the prepaid meters will help lakhs of tenants across the city avail the benefits of his government's schemes in the power sector, including the 100% bill rebate to those consuming up to 200 units, and 50% rebate to households consuming 201-400 units per month.

On October 10, 2017, the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) allowed installation of prepaid meters "for the first time" for tenants and applicants for temporary connections. The order was signed by DERC member B P Singh as the panel didn't have a chairperson then.

"The 2017 order allowed prepaid meters with stringent conditions. Now, we've made the process easier by doing away with the need to get a no-objection certificate from the landlord. Discoms are also on board, which is why helpline numbers have been issued," said a senior government official.

Making the announcement, Kejriwal said the scheme has been named 'Mukhyamantri Kirayedaar Bijli Yojana'. He also sought to assuage the concerns of landlords, saying they need not worry as this won't encourage tenants to assert false ownership.

"Tenants were unable to avail benefits of our schemes. In many cases, one building has multiple tenants, but every family draws power from one connection and the total consumption naturally crosses the subsidy slabs. It results in tenants paying Rs 8-10 per unit consumption. In case they wanted to install separate meters, NOCs were needed from landlords. But landlords were hesitant to issue NOCs, fearing tenants might end up asserting ownership. We've found legal and technological solutions to all these issues," Kejriwal said.

Delhi Power Minister Satyendar Jain said the cost to install prepaid meters would be Rs 6,000, including a security deposit of Rs 3,000.

The proposal first came up after the MCD polls in 2017. Extending the benefits of power subsidy to tenants was one of AAP's poll planks during the 2017 MCD polls, which the BJP won.

Kejriwal said the prepaid meters will work just like prepaid mobile connections, wherein consumers pay in advance to make calls. Here, payments must be made in advance to draw power. "It will be programmed for people to benefit from the available waivers. For this, tenants don't need permission from landlords," he said. On the potential cost of the project, Kejriwal said it depends on the demand for prepaid meters.

In July, the Centre announced plans to change all electricity meters to prepaid smart meters by 2022, to make power distribution more efficient. "Smart metering would empower consumers with tools to conserve energy and plan their electricity usage efficiently," the power ministry had said.

HOW TO GET A PREPAID METER

TENANTS FIRST have to call the helpline numbers of discoms

BSES Yamuna	19122
BSES Rajdhani	19123
TPDDL	19124

■ Officials will come home to vet documents

■ Tenants need to submit two documents — rent

agreements or rent receipts and identity cards pertaining to the address they are staying in

■ Meters will then be home delivered and installed

Rs 6,000

Cost to install a prepaid meter, inclusive of security deposit of Rs 3,000

The move is part of the Mukhyamantri Kirayedaar Bijli Yojana.

Prem Nath Pandey

Tenants welcome move, but wary of disapproval from landlords

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

TENANTS ACROSS the capital have lauded the Delhi government's decision to allow special meters for tenants, but said the implementation will be a challenge as "landlords will never agree" to let them install their own meters.

Farhat Salim, a student of JNU who stays in Vasant Kunj, said his landlord had installed a sub-meter, through which he was being charged Rs 8 per unit. While he said the scheme was good, it could have problems.

"The scheme seems good, but the main problem is that landlords, usually at the time of giving their places on rent, make a deal that you have to pay Rs 8 or so per unit for elec-

tricity consumption. This scheme has to be implemented through clauses in the rent agreement for it to succeed," he said.

"For people living on rent at present, I'm not sure if landlords will allow them to apply for it or not," Salim added.

Tenants also raised the issue of identity proofs becoming hurdles in the process.

Abhishek Vikram, who works as a guest teacher at Delhi University, lives with his wife at a rented accommodation in B K Dutt Colony near Jor Bagh. He pays Rs 7 per unit for electricity.

"All my ID proofs are from outside Delhi, as I belong to Samastipur in Bihar. My wife is from Delhi, but her ID proof is also of Mandi House, where her parents stay. How will we be able to benefit from this

scheme? This will be a problem for many who are not from the city," he said.

Those who rent out property agree there was anticipation of land-grab.

"Giving tenants a connection in their name is fraught with problems. What if they start claiming ownership? We have to be very careful as property owners," said Ramvir Dagar, who owns two flats in Kotla Mubarakpur.

Paramjeet Sejwal, who lives in Lado Sarai and has put several properties on rent, said, "Many charge tenants up to Rs 9 or 10 per unit. For them, this could be disappointment."

"It depends upon the provisions that AAP brings to ensure that these moves are implemented as there will be resistance from those who charge extra," he added.

49th AGM

Pathways of growth in housing & infrastructure

Chairman's Statement at the 49th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of HUDCO

Dear Shareholders, Ladies & Gentlemen

On behalf of the Board of Directors and on my own behalf, I give me immense pleasure to welcome you all on the occasion of the 49th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of HUDCO. Your presence is a reflection of your keen involvement in your Company's progress. The Annual Report for the financial year ending 31st March, 2019 together with the Director's Report, Audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's Report of your Company have already been circulated.

It is indeed, a proud privilege to share that your Company has completed 49 successful and glorious years of business operations. I am happy to inform that your Company has demonstrated another year of outstanding operational and financial performance. Your Company has achieved disbursement of Rs. 31,009 crore which is a growth of 87% over disbursements of 2017-18 and in the highest achieved in the history of 49 years of HUDCO's existence. The loan outstanding of the company has seen a quantum jump of 48% to Rs. 73,325 crore in 2018-19. The net NPA as on 31st March 2019 of your Company was 0.52% of the net loan outstanding, which is among the lowest in the sector.

HUDCO's operational performance during the year clearly depicts that your Company is on the path of growth. I would like to share the highlights of HUDCO's performance during 2018-19, the economic environment, challenges faced and future outlook of the Company.

Economic Environment:

During the year 2018-19, India continues to be the fastest growing major economy in the world with a GDP growth of 5.8%, against the world output growth of only 3.6%. India maintained its macroeconomic stability by containing inflation within 4% and by maintaining a manageable Current Account Deficit to GDP ratio. The growth rate during the year 2018-19 for the sector "Financial, Real Estate and Professional Services" is estimated at 7.4%, as against previous year's growth rate of 6.2%. The Construction sector has shown a growth rate of 6.7% as against previous year's growth rate of 5.6%. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) has shown a rise of 3.4% in respect of all commodities, while the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has grown by 4.3% during 2018-19.

On the monetary policy front, during the year 2018-19, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) after increasing the policy repo rate twice, had reduced the repo rate once during the 6th bi-monthly policy meeting held in February, 2019 by 25 basis points from 6.50% to 6.25%. As per RBI data for 2018-19 on sectoral deployment of Gross Bank Credit (GBC), housing sector registered a growth rate of 13%, whereas infrastructure sector achieved a growth of 16.50%.

The Indian economy will become a USD 3 trillion Economy during the year 2019-20. It is now the 6th largest economy in the world and aims to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024-25, which will make India the 3rd largest economy in the world. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its "World Economic Outlook" (July 2019) has projected a growth rate of 7% in 2019-20 and 7.2% in 2020-21 for India.

Sectoral Overview and Government Policy Initiatives

The Union Budget 2019-20 has laid a special focus on Affordable Housing and Infrastructure Sectors. The Government intends to invest Rs. 100 lakh crore over the next five years.

The Government will carry out restructuring of National Highway Programme to ensure that the National Highway Grid of desirable length and capacity is created using franchisee model. The Government has assured power availability to states at affordable rates, through "One Nation, One Grid" model. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana aims to achieve the objective of "Housing for All" by 2022-23, when India commemorates its 75 years of Independence. For affordable housing in rural areas, 1.35 crore housing units are proposed to be provided to the eligible beneficiaries during the period 2019-2022. The Government of India will introduce a new model tenancy/lease to boost the rental housing market. To promote affordable housing, tax incentive of Rs. 1.50 lakh has been proposed as loan interest upto 31st March, 2023, for purchase of affordable houses of top-ups Rs. 45 lakh. A major rate reduction in GST rates for real estate developers has been announced earlier during this year. The GST rates have been reduced to 1% (without input tax credit) for the construction of affordable houses having carpet area upto 60 sqm in metropolitan regions and 90 sqm in non-metropolitan regions, having carpet upto Rs. 45 lakhs.

Emerging Issues in Housing and Urban Infrastructure

The requirement of housing is growing in the context of rapid pace of urbanization, increasing level of migration from rural areas to urban areas for livelihood. With growing urbanization, the challenges associated with housing availability and infrastructure needs have become a serious concern in India. The fast-paced urbanization in the country, which is linked to the economic progress of the country, has led the urban areas to encounter some serious challenges on the socio-economic front, such as unemployment as well as over-reliance on existing infrastructure in cities like housing, sanitation, transportation, health, education, utilities, etc.

As per Census of India 2011, about 377 million population i.e. 31% constitute urban and about 833 million i.e. 69% reside in rural areas. With the current trend of urbanization, the number of Indians living in urban areas is expected to reach 543 million by 2025.

With increasing urbanisation, the demand for upgrading the housing and urban development needs in the country will increase, providing a huge potential for business operations for HUDCO.

HUDCO shall continue to support implementation of various Government of India flagship programmes and make efforts to reduce the demand-supply gap in the sectors of Housing and Urban Infrastructure.

Operational and Financial Performance

HUDCO, since inception in April, 1970 upto March 2019, has sanctioned a total of 17,197 housing and urban infrastructure projects, with a total loan component of Rs. 1,55,138 crore and made a cumulative disbursement of Rs. 1,61,110 crore. HUDCO, so far, sanctioned more than 19.34 million houses in the country in technical and urban areas.

a) In respect of housing, during the year 2018-19, HUDCO sanctioned projects, with a loan amount of Rs. 27,252 crore.

b) During the year 2018-19, HUDCO sanctioned urban infrastructure projects with a total loan amount of Rs. 7,156 crore.

c) Your Company posted Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 198.18 crore during the year 2018-19, against 17% over 2017-18.

d) The total Net-Worth of the company rose from 10% to Rs. 10,958 crore, as on 31st March 2019, as against Rs. 994 crore as on 31st March 2018.

e) Interim dividend payout for the financial year 2018-19 is Rs. 162.31 crore, including dividend distribution tax of Rs. 27.78 crore.

f) At the end of the financial year 2018-19, HUDCO reported Gross NPA and Net NPA of Rs. 3288.56 crore and Rs. 354.28 crore respectively, which constituted 4.48% of total loan portfolio and 0.52% of net loan outstanding, respectively.

Social Orientation of HUDCO's business

Since inception, Social Housing has been a priority portfolio in HUDCO's operations. A significant emphasis is given particularly to housing requirements of weaker sections of the society, with a lower interest rate, higher extent of unit cost extended as loan and with a longer repayment period. During the year 2018-19, HUDCO funded more than 20.88 lakh housing units, out of which about 94.42% has been for EWS and LIG categories.

Credit Rating of HUDCO

The domestic debt instrument(s) & Banking Sector Loans/facilities of the Company continued to enjoy "AAA" rating (Long Term) & "A1+" rating (Short Term) assigned by three Credit rating agencies, namely, India Rating & Research Pvt. Limited (IRRL), M. CARE Ratings and M. ICRA Limited.

HUDCO, for its International Borrowing Programme was assigned a Long-Term Foreign Currency Issuer Rating of "Baa2" & "BBB+", from two International Rating Agencies, namely, Moody's Investors Services and Fitch Ratings respectively.

HUDCO's Role in Implementation of Government of India flagship programmes for promoting "Housing for All" & "Urban Development"

To keep pace with the increasing housing and infrastructure demand in the country and towards achieving the ambitious plan of providing affordable housing, under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Housing for All (Urban) programme and sustainable urban development of human settlements, the Government of India from time to time has encouraged and supported Social Housing and Infrastructure programmes benefiting the urban poor and weaker sections of the society.

PMAY (Urban) and PMAY (Gramin), development of 100 Smart Cities, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) for 600 cities, Habitat-Lake City Development & Augmentation Yojana (HABDA), Swachh Bharat Mission, National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), etc. are some of the flagship programmes of Government of India.

HUDCO actively participates in implementations of Government programmes by providing financial assistance by way of viability gap funding for SmartULs and ULB, state, as per the requirements. Other services offered by HUDCO are consultancy, project appraisal/monitoring, procurement and dissemination of scheme details, monitoring and site inspections, organizing awareness programmes, organizing capacity building programmes for the Government/SabULB functionaries and handholding support to State Government for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).

During 2018-19, HUDCO undertook Site Inspection and DPR scrutiny of 125 projects with a total project cost of Rs. 8332.58 crore, having a Central Share of Rs. 3057.12 crore, for the construction of 2.86 lakh housing units in 20 States/Union Territories. This activity has resulted in generating a fee-based income of Rs. 2.64 crore.

The Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) component of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-U) (CLSS) envisaged expanding institutional credit flow to the housing needs of the Urban Poor, as a demand side intervention. HUDCO is a Central Nodal Agency (CNA) notified by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for channelizing the subsidy under CLSS scheme of "Housing for All" (Urban) Programme. Upto March, 2019, HUDCO has signed 86 MoUs for EWS/LIG category and 60 MoUs for MIG category with Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs). During the financial year 2018-19, a total of Rs. 341.95 crore of subsidy has been disbursed to 15,675 number of beneficiaries under EWS/LIG/MIG category.

During 2018-19, HUDCO sanctioned viably-gap financing to 2 PMAY (Urban) projects with a total project cost of Rs. 2147.48 crore to Kerala and Andhra Pradesh & Noida, offering a total loan of Rs. 1094.46 crore, for construction of 50,550 housing units.

HUDCO, upto 31st March, 2019 has conducted site inspections of 551 Night Shelters under Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUFH) component of Deendrakar Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihood Mission (DAYU - NULM) in respect of 20 States/UTs across the country.

Further, as part of free-based consultancy initiatives, HUDCO successfully completed the consultancy services for one of its most prestigious projects i.e. Office building for Archaeological Survey of India at Tikri Marg, New Delhi which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 12th July 2018.

Human Settlement Management Institute (HSMI)

Human Settlement Management Institute (HSMI) is HUDCO's Research & Training Wing. Having established itself as an eminent institution to focus on contemporary issues of Housing and Urban Development, HSMI continues to work in the field of human settlements, at international, national and state levels by organizing and participating in exchange programmes and other information and experience sharing events. A total of 16 Training Programmes, including 3 International programmes fully-sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs under its ITEC programme, have been conducted during the year 2018-19, imparting capacity building training to more than 500 urban specialists.

During the year 2018-19, HSMI has organized 6 research seminars for presentation of research study reports. As part of HUDCO Best Practices Awards to improve the living environment in the Habitat Sector, 10 Best Practices Awards and 5 Certificates of Appreciation were given to agencies on competitive basis.

HUDCO, being an Associate Member of CITTNET since 1993, HSMI has been engaged with CITTNET through research and training activities. HUDCO has also established an India chapter of CITTNET, so that more Indian cities could benefit from HUDCO's rich experience in the area of common interest. During the year 2018-19, HSMI organized a 2-day training programme, with CITTNET Indian National Chapter members on "Sustainable Waste Management Practices".

Human Resources Management

Human Resources are an integral part of every successful organization. Your Company has a multi-disciplinary talent pool of professionals from Projects, Finance and Law disciplines, etc. To sustain in this competitive dynamic market, the company regularly arranges capacity-building programmes for its employees under various functional areas. A total of 301 employees were imparted training during the year 2018-19, in different spheres of company's activities. As on 31st March, 2019, HUDCO has a total strength of employees as 827, which comprises 29.86% of the women employees. In tune with the policies of Bet Bachao - Bet Padhao for women development.

A major initiative of implementing Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, including the HR Module has been initiated. During 2018-19, ERP will benefit in improving productivity, improving reporting & planning, increased efficiencies, decreased costs and streamlined processes. This will also bring in more professionalism in the working of HR, besides automating various HR processes and will enhance overall business performance of HUDCO.

The company also imparts training to its employees on team-building and work-life balance for enhancing employee's productivity.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

During the year 2018-19, a total of 21 projects, with an amount of Rs. 9.30 crore has been committed, out of which an amount of Rs. 1.02 crore has been related to various activities for implementation of socially beneficial proposals, in line with the thrust areas of HUDCO's CSR Policy, some of the key sectors funded during the year were sanitation, education, social welfare, forest & environment and rural development. During the year, HUDCO has also committed support for construction of houses for the families who were severely affected by floods in Kerala.

Further, an amount of Rs. 3.56 crore has been released for the 12 ongoing projects sanctioned in the previous years.

Awards and Accolades

I am delighted to convey that during the year, HUDCO has received several awards & accolades, recognition of its services:-

a. 16th Annual Greenleaf CSR Award 2018 - Gold Category in service sector for outstanding achievement in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.

b. Technology Sabha Awards 2019 in category of Enterprise Applications.

c. Digital Leader Award for Excellence under the Enterprise Applications and United Communications categories for successful PAN India Implementation of these initiatives.

Corporate Governance

Corporate Governance deals with determining ways to take effective strategic decisions. HUDCO is fully committed in promoting and establishing a fair, transparent and ethical system of Corporate Governance. HUDCO ensures transparency in all its operations with special emphasis on financial prudence, accountability and ensuring customer/stakeholder's satisfaction.

17% growth in profit after tax and 10% growth in net worth of the company

1.95,138 crore and cumulative disbursement of 1,61,110 crore

Total Loan Component of 1,95,138 crore and cumulative disbursement of 1,61,110 crore

Historic disbursement figure of ₹ 31,009 crores reached which is the highest in 49 years

1.35 crore housing units proposed in rural area under "Housing for All"

Subsidy of ₹ 341.95 crores disbursed to 15,675 economically challenged beneficiaries

Place: New Delhi
Date: 25.09.2019

Dr. Medithi Ravi Kanth, IAS (r) KLAS
Chairman & Managing Director

Note: This does not purport to be a record of the proceeding of the 49th AGM of HUDCO.

Housing & Urban Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
CIN: LT4839DL1377G0003276 GST No. 07AAACH063A12ZF
Core 7-A, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003
Phone No: 011- 24649510/23, Fax No: 011-24653328, Website: www.hudco.org

For odd-even, govt wants staggered office timings, option to work from home

MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

STAGGERED WORK timings and the option to work from home — this is what the Delhi government wants firms, industries and trade bodies to look at during implementation of the odd-even scheme in the capital in November.

On Wednesday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal to discuss measures to control air pollution, where the L-G suggested that office timings be staggered to reduce congestion and air pollution.

After the meeting, Bajjal tweeted that he had requested the CM to explore the option of staggered opening/closing hours of offices and other establishments. Kejriwal, in a tweet, said the government will “definitely implement this”.

Under the proposal, one industry, or a particular set of offices, will open at 9 am or 9.30 am, for instance, while another set of offices will open at 10.30 am or 11 am. All employees will have to work for the minimum number of hours prescribed but everyone will not be on the road at the same time, trying to get to office.

Several companies offer employees the freedom to work

from home and the Delhi government, officials said, will push for more firms, especially where there is no public interface, to look at the option while odd-even is enforced.

Staggered office timings have been experimented with across the world, primarily as a measure to reduce traffic congestion, thereby reducing pollution as well.

In Delhi as well, this is not the first time such a solution has been suggested. In 2016, the Central Pollution Control Board had asked governments in Delhi-NCR to consider staggering their office hours.

“The policy has been on our

radar for quite some time but has not been implemented so far. We will engage with firms and businesses and ask them what is feasible. We want that as many employees as possible work from home because that is going to be of great help. We are looking at the feasibility of this in government offices, too. Again, this will have to be in areas where the interface with people is lower,” said a senior government official.

Officials said the idea is to have the measure coincide with odd-even during November 4-15 so that overcrowding in public transport during peak hours can be avoided.



VERTICAL LIMIT

A multi-level car parking facility on Aurobindo Road is set to be completed by the end of the year. Constructed by the South Corporation, the Rs 16-crore project comprises a 39.5-metre-high tower for parking and is spread over 878 sq m. It can accommodate 140 cars. *Tashi Tobgyal*

Inform people about historic J&K decision: Nadda to BJP workers

ABHINAV RAJPUR
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

BJP WORKING president J P Nadda Wednesday appealed to Delhi BJP workers to inform people about the advantages of abrogating special provisions for Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to party workers at Talkatora stadium, at the Jan Jagran Abhiyan in Delhi in the presence of six MPs, Nadda said, “It is the result of Amit (Shah) ji’s strategy that in the Rajya Sabha, we did not have a majority but we still got the support of 125 members on the issue. I thank all parties who supported us.”

“When it happened, Pakistan raised a hue and cry over it but the entire world stood with Modi ji. Within a day, we got support from 10 countries, and 100 diplomats also said it is India’s internal matter,” he said.

Nadda said party workers in Delhi should take the message

forward and feel blessed they were alive when such a historic decision took place.

“We should consider ourselves lucky that we witnessed this historic step. The abrogation of special provisions for J&K is a historic step. India has become so powerful at the world stage under our leadership. Now, it is our responsibility to bring Kashmir into the mainstream, ensure its progress, and ward off the evil eye that was cast on it,” he said.

A nine-minute film was also shown, which covered the efforts of the party’s senior leaders — from Syama Prasad Mookerjee to Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Narendra Modi to Amit Shah — in removing Article 370.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari said the film will be taken to ward-, district- and booth-level workers, and they will be asked to show it to people in their constituencies: “We should know what is Article 370 and 35(A), what were the disadvantages...”

Calling woman ‘fat’ does not outrage her modesty, says court

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

ACQUITTING AN interior designer who was accused of calling a woman fat and booked by police for insulting her modesty, a Delhi court has noted that “merely by referring to the complainant as fat, it cannot be said that the accused intended to insult her modesty as the said words do not concern the sex of the complainant”.

As per court records, the woman filed a complaint against the designer after they had an altercation over him parking his bike outside her house. According to her complaint, he misbehaved with her and outraged her modesty.

esty. She alleged that the man then fled on his motorcycle, and she approached police.

Metropolitan Magistrate Nishant Garg noted that the woman, in her statement filed under Section 164 CrPc, did not make specific allegations. The court also noted that in her initial complaint, she did not name any person specifically and did not even inform what words were used by the accused.

“...The complainant informed the IO that the accused had addressed her as ‘fat’ and said he will not remove his bike. Clearly, merely by referring to the complainant as fat, it cannot be said that the accused intended to insult her modesty, as the said

words do not concern the sex of the complainant,” the court said.

It also pulled up police for not producing the woman in court. It noted that the IO did not record the statement of her driver, who was also at the spot. Police had booked the man on the basis of an oral statement given by the woman’s friend, but the court noted that the IO did not take down her statement under Section 161 CrPc.

“Adverse inference is to be drawn against the prosecution for withholding this material witness. In the absence of examination of this witness, the complaint based on which the present FIR was registered remained unproved,” it said.

Central Vista project: Days before bidding, architects seek clarity



The Union Housing Ministry had announced the project on September 13. *Praveen Khanna*

SHINY VARGHESE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

THE NORTHERN Chapter of the Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) Wednesday called for clarity and transparency on the redevelopment plan for the Central Vista and Parliament building.

With the IIA Haryana Chapter and the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) Alumni Association, New Delhi, the architects elaborated on four aspects of the multi-crore project — need for public debate, an elaborate design brief, the fault in keeping to the lowest tender bid, and the unrealistic deadline of two years to complete a project of this magnitude.

The meeting was held on the eve of a site visit, organised by the CPWD, for select architectural firms to the Parliament and Central Vista areas. The plan is to call for a bid by September 30, the architects informed, which gives barely a week of preparation time.

“This is public money that is going to be spent for the project, which people don’t know anything about. The narrative of the Minister (Hardeep Singh Puri, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs) has been changing ever since they advertised early this

month,” said Balbir Verma, former President, IIA.

The architects called for a structural and functional audit of the buildings that the tender document called earthquake unsafe. “We recommend that an advisory board be drawn up from eminent professionals, including architects, urban designers, art historians and landscape architects, so that a formal roadmap is laid out for development of the area. With such a comprehensive urban development plan in the first stage, the second stage should include a detailed plan of buildings that need re-purposing,” said architect Anuj Srivastava.


“Good design doesn’t come from lowest tenders and number of staff, it comes from good ideas. Why should we not have the best ideas for our most important place in the Capital?” said Shamit Manchanda, chairman, Northern Chapter, IIA. The need for an open design competition has been their recommendation since September 12, when the pre-bid meeting was called.

“There are numerous layers to our city building. This project appears to dissolve all that in the name of building a ‘new India’. Somebody should define what it means...,” said Nikhil Segel, who represented the SPA Alumni Association.



BJP working president J P Nadda, Union Minister Harsh Vardhan and Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari mark Deen Dayal Upadhyay’s birth anniversary Wednesday. *Prem Nath Pandey*

SALUTE THE SOLDIER



MARTYR OF 203 Bn, CoBRA
CT/GD Jaimal Singh of 203, CoBRA made the supreme sacrifice during an operation in jungle area of Saranda, under PS-Manoharpur, Distt- West Singhbhum (JKD) on 26th Sep.2010. The CRPF proudly remembers the braveheart who laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with Maoists. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the Force.

IG & All Ranks of CoBRA

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
(through e-tendering)

S.No.: 1 Name of work with its location: Signalling work in c/w GM Aerials inspection in DLHRE section of Delhi Division. App. cost of the work (in Rs.): Rs. 43,43,160.51/- only. Tender inviting officer address: Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Northern Railway, 2nd Floor, Annex-1, CRM office, New Delhi-110055. Tender Document Fee (in Rs.): Rs. 3,540/- only. Earnest Money to be deposited (in Rs.): Rs. 85,000/- only. Date & Time for Closed of tender: Tender uploaded date & time: 16.10.2019 upto 15:00 hrs. Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.: See the N.R. website www.nwr.org.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd floor, CRM office, State, entry road, New Delhi-110055. No.: 598-Sig/16/M/Tender/1339 Dated:24.09.2019 3077/2019

Serving Customers with a Smile

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
COMMISSIONERATE OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION
Urban Administrative Building, 11th Floor,
Raja Annamalaiapuram, MRC Nagar, Chennai - 600 028.
Phone : 044 - 2986 4457, Website : <https://tntenders.gov.in>

The Government of India has received funds from the World Bank towards the cost of Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Project (TNSUDP) and it is intended that part of the proceeds will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the **Supply of Microsoft License for Operating System and Database.**

The Commissioner of Municipal Administration now invites online bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply of the following Microsoft Licenses with 2 years Software Assurance.

- SQL Server Enterprise Core LicSAPK OLP 2 LicNLGov Core Lic Q11d - 20 Nos.
- WinSvr STD Core LicSAPK OLP 16 LicNLGov Core Lic - 33 Nos.
- WinSvr CAL LicSAPK OLP NLGov DV CAL - 1500 Nos.

Installation and configuration of Microsoft Licenses.

- Support Services for a period of 2 years from the date of purchase of new licenses.

Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <https://tntenders.gov.in>

Last date of receipt of bids is: 23.10.2019

Commissioner of Municipal Administration

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल संख्या-1, धनबाद
शुद्धि-पत्र

प्रत्येक द्वारा शुद्धित किया जाता है कि प्रति अलग-अलग ई-प्रोपोजरमेंट निविदा सूचना संख्या 03 / 2019-20 (3rd call) को सूचना एवं जलसन्निधान विभाग के PR संख्या 216588 द्वारा प्रकाशित है, में निम्नलिखित समस्त कार्य संशुद्धि किया जाता है।

क्र	वर्क ई प्रोपोजर सूचना	संशोधन सूचना
1	कंसल्टिंग पर लिखित जवाबों की तिथि पुनः संख्या 5/30/2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।	दिनांक 23.10.2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।
2	ई बिड में चेंडर को बिड एवं सम्य - 22.09.2019, 11:30 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।	11.10.2019, 11:30 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।
3	ई बिड में चेंडर को बिड एवं सम्य - 22.09.2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।	दिनांक 23.10.2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।
4	कंसल्टिंग पर लिखित जवाबों की तिथि पुनः संख्या 5/30/2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।	दिनांक 23.10.2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।
5	कंसल्टिंग पर लिखित जवाबों की तिथि पुनः संख्या 5/30/2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।	दिनांक 23.10.2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।
6	कंसल्टिंग पर लिखित जवाबों की तिथि पुनः संख्या 5/30/2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।	दिनांक 23.10.2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।
7	कंसल्टिंग पर लिखित जवाबों की तिथि पुनः संख्या 5/30/2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।	दिनांक 23.10.2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।
8	कंसल्टिंग पर लिखित जवाबों की तिथि पुनः संख्या 5/30/2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।	दिनांक 23.10.2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।
9	कंसल्टिंग पर लिखित जवाबों की तिथि पुनः संख्या 5/30/2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।	दिनांक 23.10.2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।
10	कंसल्टिंग पर लिखित जवाबों की तिथि पुनः संख्या 5/30/2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।	दिनांक 23.10.2019, 6:00 बजे अंतिम रूप तक।

रोष सही ढंग से बचाया रहेगा।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल संख्या-1, धनबाद

PR/217986 Drinking Water and Sanitation (19-20)D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, चतरा।
अतिअल्पकालिक ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई- निविदा सूचना संख्या - RDD/SD/CHATRA/03/2019-20

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरण:-

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम	परिमाण विवरण की शक्ति	अंदाजित की राशि	परिमाण विवरण का मूल्य	कार्य पूरा करने की अवधि
1	फला जिला के प्रमुख उपमहानगर में गोसाइँदाई से सीएसए जानेवाली पथ में धरती (घरती) नदी पर पुल निर्माण।	47904500.00	960000.00	10,000.00	18 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि - 01.10.2019

3. ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय - 10.10.2019 अपराह्न 6:00 बजे तक।

4. ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, चतरा / मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, चतरा, राँची में निविदा शुरू, अंदाज की राशि, Bank Credit Certificate एवं Affidavit जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 11.10.2019 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक।

5. निविदा खोलने का स्थान - मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, चतरा, राँची

6. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय - 14.10.2019 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे

7. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले फुडरिकाई का नाम एवं पता - कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, चतरा।

8. ई-निविदा प्रक्रिया का दूरभाष संख्या - 8800869950 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष संख्या)

9. निविदा सूचना भारतीय स्टेट बैंक द्वारा निर्गत श्रृंखला पर वेबसाइट पर कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, चतरा की वेबसाइट से देखा हो बना होगा।

10. निविदा खोलने के लिए वेबसाइट www.bidsandtenders.gov.in एवं वेबसाइट की सूचना पत्र पर देखा जा सकता है।

शुद्धि - शुद्धि बिड करने को शुद्ध को कर लेगी

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, चतरा।

PR 218002 (Rural Development) 19-20 (D)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Wular Conservation and Management Authority, Kashmir (WUCMA) Tender Notice No.: 01 of 2019-20 DATED: 18.09.2019 (e-Tender)

Name of Work:- Increasing the Water Holding Capacity of Wular Lake its Feeder Channel (Naaz Nalla) near Village Saderkote Payen and Banyari for Conservation and Management of the Lake as prescribed under Management Action Plan.

For and on behalf of the Governor Jammu & Kashmir, the Wular Conservation and Management Authority, Kashmir, invites Online Global Tenders (Two Cover System) from Registered, Reputed and Resourceful AAY Class Contractors (Parties/ Firms/ Companies/ Joint Venture Consortia) on Comprehensive and Extensive basis for the following work to be executed within a period of 21 (Twenty one) Calendar months including Rainy days after award of contract or LOI whichever is earlier.

FOR
Dredging/ Excavation of Wular Lake & its Feeder Channel (Naaz Nalla) near Village Saderkote Payen & Banyari (Including Old Tracks) in all kinds of Soil like Earth, Clay, Silt, Peal, by way of mechanical means such as Cutter Suction Dredger (CSD) Hydraulic Excavators and any type of machine which may be suitable & required as per site conditions/strata of Lake Bed including disposal of dredged out material out side the demarcation line of lake keeping in view environment angles as per the directions of Engineer-in-Charge after decantating it through necessary suitably made dykes at suitable places at site including dismantling and disposing of the same as may be required. The length of pipeline of dredger would be within a lead of 3000 meters. Work would also include supply and laying of Geo Textile Bags of 400 GSM PP and Providing and laying of Stone soling on 3rd Line Bund, so as to make it fair weather road including consolidation by Power Rolling and Binding Material for smooth and free moments to Tipplers, Dumper etc. at site. Bidder shall possess the requisite machinery/equipment and must be ready to mobilize the same within 15 days of award of contract/issuance of Letter of Intent.

The Bidding Documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms and Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website:- www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule hereunder:

Position of Funds: Demanded	Position of AATs: Accorded
Advertised Cost	Rs. 155.06 Crores
Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18.09.2019 from 11.00 A.M.
Start of Downloading	18.09.2019 from 06.00 P.M.
Bid Submission Start Date	18.09.2019 from 06.00 P.M.
Pre-bid Consultation & Venue	26.09.2019 In the Office of Chief Executive Director, WUCMA at Rajbagh, Srinagar at 11.30 A.M.
Bid Submission End Date	09.10.2019 upto 04.00 P.M.
Date of Opening of Cover (Technical Bid) Online	10.10.2019 at 11.30 A.M. in the Office of Chief Executive Director, WUCMA at Rajbagh, Srinagar
Bid Document Fee (Non-refundable)	Rs. 50,000/- in the shape of e-Challan (Cost of Tender Document) to be deposited in Government Treasury under major head Forest 0406 and e-Challan/Receipt of the Treasury to be uploaded.
Earnest Money Deposit (INR)	Rs. 3.101 Crores in the form of Bank Guarantee/ CDR/FDR of any Scheduled/Nationalized Bank, having Branch in Srinagar, pledged to Co-ordinator Water Management WUCMA must be uploaded.
Date of Opening of Cover-II (Price Bid) Online	The Date of Opening of Financial Bid (Cover-II) shall be notified separately only for those Bidders who qualify in Technical Bid (Cover-I)

Note:-
1. The Department will not be responsible for any delay in Online submission of the bid due to any reason (Technical or otherwise).
2. If any Tenderer faces any difficulty in uploading the Tender, he can contact the WUCMA Office during office hours at Rajbagh, Srinagar.
No. SE/WUCMA/19/85-99
Dated: 18.09.2019
DIPK-NB-0326/M

Sd/- Superintending Engineer,
Wular Conservation and Management Authority, Kashmir, WUCMA

BRIEFLY

17-yr-old who coached tribal girls felicitated

New Delhi: A 17-year-old basketball player was felicitated by Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju Wednesday for her contribution in training tribal girls from Chhattisgarh to compete in state- and national-level basketball championships. Manya Agarwal, a student of Delhi Public School, R K Puram, has been coaching young girls from different districts across Chhattisgarh since 2016. She volunteers for the Tribal Youth Sports Society to provide basketball training to girls living in Naxalite areas. Rijiju congratulated Manya for her efforts in promoting basketball and helping young girls. **ENS**

Bangladesh to review ‘happiness curriculum’

New Delhi: Bangladesh education minister Md Zakir Hossain visited a Delhi government school in Shalimar Bagh Wednesday. Addressing teachers and students, he said he would review the happiness programme. He also invited teachers and Education Minister Manish Sisodia to Bangladesh to share good practices from the curriculum. **ENS**

Minors among three nabbed for theft

New Delhi: A day after four men allegedly broke into four shops and fled with cash and other items, police arrested a man and apprehended two minors from Dwarka Wednesday.

Businessman shot dead

Ghaziabad: A 45-year-old businessman, a relative of Shiv Sena leader Mahesh Ahuja, was shot dead in Ghaziabad Wednesday. Police said the victim, Amit Kumar, was in his Fortuner when masked assailants on a bike shot him multiple times.

3 arrested for murder

Noida: Police Wednesday arrested three persons, involved in an alleged inter-state admission scam, for killing one of their gang members. **ENS**



Footage shows the accused shooting at the victim even as he tries to run away



Gunman climbs atop car to finish Dwarka hit job

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

A DAY after a 45-year-old property dealer-turned-politician was shot dead outside his office in Dwarka, investigation revealed that he had refused to give protection money to gangster Kapil Sangwan alias Nandu after open-

ing a restaurant-cum-bar. Police have recovered a chilling video of a man wearing a helmet, who approaches the victim's SUV and starts firing. As the victim gets out of the vehicle to escape, the shooter gets on top of a car and continues firing, even as the victim clutches his back.

On Wednesday night, police detained one of Sangwan's asso-

ciates and are questioning him. Police identified the victim as property dealer Narendra Gehlot. The murder took place around 4.30 pm. In the video, Narendra is seen speaking to someone while sitting in the car. Once the man leaves and Narendra starts driving, the accused approaches and starts firing.

"He was outside his office

and a helper was talking to him. As soon as the helper left, the accused approached Narendra and shot him," said police.

Police said Narendra had contested the municipal corporation elections in 2012 as an independent candidate but had lost. Four criminal cases were registered against him — the first in 2001 and the last in 2017, police said. "The 2001 case is a rob-

bery case, then there's a case in Sonepat, and another in Dwarka, and a culpable homicide case in 2017," said an officer.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that Sangwan has been absconding after the Crime Branch booked him under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crimes Act (MCOCA) for making calls seeking protection money to several

businessmen in Dwarka and nearby areas.

"During investigation, police found that a few days ago, Sangwan sent two of his associates to Narendra's restaurant-cum-bar. They were allegedly beaten up by Narendra when they demanded money from him," a police source said.

Police also came to know that Sangwan had also called

Narendra's business partner. He gave his phone to Narendra, who again refused to pay any protection money.

Police said four teams have been formed to nab the accused. "We are going through multiple CCTVs to ascertain the entry and exit points of the accused, who came on a bike. We are also looking for details of the vehicle," said a police officer.



17 people died in the fire in February. Archive

Family of Hotel Arpit fire victim seeks Rs 2 cr compensation

PRITAM PAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

THE FAMILY of a 33-year-old man, who died in a fire that swept through a hotel in Karol Bagh on February 12, Wednesday approached the Delhi High Court seeking over Rs 2 crore as compensation.

The victim's parents, his two minor children and wife sought directions to the Delhi government and six other authorities to "pay jointly and severely a sum of Rs 2,46,78,430 as compensation" to them.

Taking note of the demand, Justice Navin Chawla sought to know the stand of the government and authorities.

It issued a notice to the Delhi government, North Delhi Municipal Corporation, Delhi Fire Services, DCP Licensing Branch of Delhi Police, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, Inspector of Lifts, BSES Yamuna Power Limited and the two owners of the hotel, and scheduled the hearing on January 22, 2020.

Delhi government's Additional Standing Counsel Sanjoy Ghose contested the demand, saying that the family of the victim, Pranav Kumar Bhaskar, has been paid Rs 5 lakh by the Delhi government in addi-

tion to being paid Rs 2 lakh by the Centre.

Ghose submitted that a chargesheet has already been filed against the owners of the hotel, Rakesh Goel and his brother Sharad Indu Goel.

At least 17 people, including a child, were killed in the fire that broke out in Hotel Arpit Palace in Karol Bagh. The chargesheet has termed that the hotel was being run like a "death trap".

The Delhi government counsel argued that even in the Uphaar fire tragedy, where 59 people died, the Supreme Court had reduced the quantum of compensation awarded by the Delhi HC from Rs 18 lakh to Rs 10 lakh.

To this, Justice Chawla observed that the Uphaar tragedy took place long ago. "Why don't you (Delhi government and other authorities) file your replies before the next date of hearing," it said.

Bhaskar, who worked with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Government of India enterprises, as an assistant manager, had checked into the hotel to attend a conference.

The father of the victim, in his plea, stated that "a crime has been committed. A wrong has been done and many citizens have lost their lives because the State was not vigilant enough".

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

AS PART of its intensified drive to improve performance of its students in class X board examinations, the Delhi government's education department has distributed highest-scoring board examination answer sheets as "models" to its schools.

According to an education department official, these answer sheets, of students who had

scored the highest marks in this year's board examinations, were procured through a "special arrangement with the CBSE" to "help its students".

This is the first time that such "model" answer papers are being distributed by the education department to its schools. Five "best papers" each from the 2019 board examination have been distributed for English, Hindi, mathematics, science and social science.

In a circular announcing that these answer sheets were avail-

able on a closed online portal, the education department wrote, "Teachers may take reference of these answer sheets to motivate students. This will help them improve their writing skills and develop effective techniques for attempting the question paper in an ideal manner."

Class X board exam results have been a problem for Delhi government's schools, which registered a low pass percentage of 71.97% this year — behind the national pass percentage of 91.10%

as well as the performance of these schools at the class XII level, where they had registered a 94.29% pass percentage.

After the results were announced in May, the education department has been taking several steps to try and improve its track record.

It went into a focused drive to increase the percentage through compartment examinations, results of which were announced in July. These examinations give a second chance to students who

had failed in either one or two papers to clear them. In mid-May, the department had begun conducting regular remedial classes in mathematics and science for these students and managed to raise the pass percentage to 81.4%.

Director of Education Binay Bhushan could not be reached for a comment.

The CBSE had released sample question papers for 2020's class X and class XII board examinations, along with the marking schemes, on September 19.

112 replaces 100, other emergency numbers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

ON WEDNESDAY, Delhi became the second union territory to implement the new Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112) since it was inaugurated by Union Minister Rajnath Singh in February.

DCP (Operations and Communications) SK Singh said, "ERSS-112 is a single emergency number for police, fire and ambulance. With the implementation of ERSS-112 system, the police response time is reduced."

While ERSS-112 was inaugurated by Kishan Reddy, MoS Home Affairs, Wednesday, it was being tested for the last 10 days.

Singh said: "It's difficult to remember so many emergency numbers, especially if you are travelling from one state/UT to another. This will simplify things for the users."

"At least 18 states and two UTs have ERSS-112 now," Singh said. He added that 100 (for police), 101 (for fire) and 108 (for medical emergencies) are functional for now, but will be phased out with time.



Police chief Amulya Patnaik, Wednesday. Prem Nath Pandey

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

ELECTRIC PLANNING AND DESIGN CIRCLE, SRINAGAR.

(E-mail id: epndcs@gmail.com)

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Reference: NIT No. EPDC/e-NIT-24/PLG of 2019

Dated: 23.09.2019

For and on behalf of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir State, the Superintending Engineer, Electric Planning and Design Circle, Srinagar, invites e-Tenders (In two Cover System) from Original Manufacturers for DESIGN, ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURE, SHOP TESTING, SUPPLY INCLUDING PACKING, LOADING AND FORWARDING, TRANSPORTATION, DELIVERY, UNLOADING AT SITE, SUPERVISION DURING TESTING AND COMMISSIONING WITH OLTC, RTCC SCADA COMPATIBLE, NIPFES AND OTHER ACCESSORIES OF THREE PHASE (4 NO's) POWER TRANSFORMER 50 MVA, 132/33 KV ONAN/ONAF/OFAT RATING FOR GRID STATION AT AMARGARH, CHADOORA, ZAINAKOTE (KASHMIR PROVINCE) AND DRABA (JAMMU PROVINCE).

The Tenders should be addressed to Chief Engineer, Electric Planning and Design Wing, J&K, PDD Complex, Bemina, Srinagar/PDD Complex, Narwal Bala, Jammu, as per terms & conditions, technical specifications and schedules thereto mentioned in Standard Tender Documents.

The Standard Tender Document is available at website: <http://jktenders.gov.in>. The tenderers can submit their e-Tenders Online upto the date and time mentioned in the Table below:

Tender No.	Description of Material	Qty.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Doc. (Rs.)
EPDC/e-NIT-24/PLG of 2019	50 MVA, 132/33 KV Three Phase transformer with OLTC, RTCC, NIPFES & other required accessories & fittings. (Refer BOQ for full details & other items)	04	990 Lacs	19.80 Lacs	10,000
A	Date & Time of Downloading of Standard Tender Document	The Standard Tender Document can be downloaded over https://jktenders.gov.in from 23.09.2019 (10.00 A.M.)			
B	Sale of Tender Document (Start) (Online)	23.09.2019 (10.00 A.M.)			
C	Sale of Tender Document (End) (Online)	18.10.2019 (02.00 P.M.)			
D	Start Date for Receipt of Clarifications through Mail	29.09.2019			
E	Last Date for Receipt of Clarifications through Mail	04.10.2019			
F	Replies to Clarifications through Mail	05.10.2019			
G	Pre-Bid Conference (At Srinagar)	09.10.2019			
H	e-Tenders Submission (Start) Date & Time (Submission of e-Tender Fee, EMD and other Supporting Documents in PDF/XLS Format) (Online)	11.10.2019 (10.00 A.M.)			
I	e-Tender Submission (End) Date & Time (Submission of e-Tenders Fee, EMD and other Supporting Documents in PDF/XLS Format) (Online)	18.10.2019 (02.00 P.M.)			
J	Deadline for Submission of Hard Copies	20.10.2019 (04.00 P.M.)			
K	Online Commercial and Technical e-Tender Opening Date & Time	22.10.2019 (12.00 P.M.)			
L	Online Financial e-Tender Opening Date & Time (Only of the Technically Qualified Tenderers)	Will be communicated to Technically Qualified Bidders separately			
M	Venue of Pre-Bid Conference and Opening of Techno-commercial e-Tenders	Office of Chief Engineer, EP&D Wing, Bemina, Srinagar			

Sd/- Superintending Engineer,
Electric and Design Circle, Srinagar

DIPK-NB-0344/M

FORM NO. 15
BEFORE, THE DEBTS
RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

Wing : A, B & F (2nd Floor), Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Karmchari Parisar (GPOA), Near Rajiv Nagar Thana, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna 800025

O.A/M.A No. 389 of 2019

Applicant: SBI Danapur Branch

Respondent/Defendants: Amit Kumar & another

SUMMONS

ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993.

To,

1. Shiv Shankar Prasad Jaiswal S/o Dayanand Prasad, R/o at & P.O. Daudpur, P.S-Shahpur, Dist.-Patna

Whereas, the application has been instituted an application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank & Financial Institution Act, 1993 against the defendants for the Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 14,13,476/- (Rupees Fourteen lacs thirteen thousand four hundred seventy six only)**.

The above mentioned defendants are therefore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in Person or through an advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of their defense to show Cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 26/09/2019 at 10.30 A.M. (forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned. Herein before, the proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.

Give under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 9th day of Aug, 2019.

Asst. Registrar (I/C)
Debts Recovery Tribunal Patna

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL

PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING

Aditya Birla Finance Limited

Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 362 266
CIN NO. : U65990GJ1991PLC064603

APPENDIX IV

[Under Rule 6(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

WHEREAS

The undersigned being the authorized officer of the Aditya Birla Finance Limited, 2nd Floor, UCO Bank Building, 5, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 28.01.2019 Calling upon the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers of M/s Shalin Impex Private Limited, Mr. Sanjay Kumar, M/s. Shalini Verma, Mr. Rajiv Kumar, M/s. Malini Verma, Mr. Siddhartha Sanjay to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 4,45,00,307.72 (Rupees Four Crores Forty Five Lacs Three Hundred Seven and Seventy Two Paise Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/co-borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rule on this 23rd Day of September of the year Two Thousand and Nineteen.

The borrower/co-borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Aditya Birla Finance Limited, 2nd Floor, UCO Bank Building, 5, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 for an amount Rs. 4,45,00,307.72 (Rupees Four Crores Forty Five Lacs Three Hundred Seven and Seventy Two Paise Only) and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the Secured Assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY :-

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Apartment No. 301, Duplex on 3rd & 4th Floor, Block No. 2, namely, Heritage City and having super area 1849.00 Sq. feet (171.84 Sq. meter) along with Terrace Area 230 Sq. ft., comprising of Drawing-cum-dining room, one bed room with attached toilet, kitchen, servant room with W.C. & terrace on 3rd floor and two bed rooms with attached toilets and terrace on 4th floor. In the said group housing complex, Heritage City, situated at village Sirhaul, Tehsil & District, Gurgaon (Haryana) East-Neighbour, West- Neighbour, South- Neighbour, North-Road

ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED

PLACE : DELHI

DATE : 26-09-2019

AUTHORIZED OFFICER

Parking policy notified, to be free in areas of residence

New Delhi: The capital Wednesday took a major stride towards linking parking charges with pollution levels, and duration and volume of traffic, with the Delhi Transport Department notifying the long-pending parking policy.

Under the Delhi Maintenance and Management of Parking Places Rules, 2019, the civic bodies will now have to prepare area-specific parking plans within the next four months, which means parking charges may increase by early next year.

Parking in residential areas will, however, not be charged. The civic bodies will fix new charges on a base fee, which will be fixed by a committee headed by the transport commissioner. The policy will mandate that on-street parking for the first hour be priced "at least twice of off-street parking".

"Dynamic pricing mechanism such as peak and off-peak fee and exponential increase would be used to moderate parking demand. Long term off-street parking space for shopkeepers, Metro users, residents, could be priced through monthly passes or token systems," the rules state. **ENS**

इलाहाबाद बैंक

विश्वास की परंपरा

ALLAHABAD BANK

A tradition of trust

Head Office: 2, Netaji Subhash Road, Kolkata-700001

Zonal Office: Gaya

NOTICE OF E-AUCTION

E-auction of property on 06.11.2019 on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & "WHATEVER THERE IS" on the platform <https://allahabadbank.auctiontiger.net>

E-auction sale notice for sale of Immovable Assets under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Allahabad Bank Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "whatever there is" basis as on 06.11.2019. The details of bank's dues, Borrower & Guarantors, Reserve Price, Earnest money & Description of immovable properties is given below:

Sl No	Details of immovable properties	Name of the Borrower(S)	Amount of Secured Debt	Reserve Price (in Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Branch
01	(1) Equitable Mortgage of all part & parcel of land & Building situated at Chilhaki, P.O. Amba, P.S. Kutumba, District- Aurangabad having Khata No-45 Plot No 705, Thana No-467, Thana Kutumba, Area 12.5 Decimals standing in the name of Smt Lalita Devi W/o Sri Pravin Kumar vide sale deed No-11460 dated 06-08-2013 Book No-1 Zild No-155/2013 Page No-182-189, Bounded as under (as per deed): North- Shyam Bihari Pandey & Rasta, South-Nawal Kishore Sharma, East- Sheo Pujan Prajapati, West- Pramod Pandey, (2) Equitable mortgage of all part & parcel of land & Building situated at Chilhaki P.O. Amba P.S-Kutumba, District-Aurangabad having Khata No-45 Plot No-510,513 Thana No-467, Thana-Kutumba Area-7.812 decimals standing in the name of Smt. Lalita Devi w/o Sri Pravin Kumar vide sale deed No-11793 dated 03-11-2011 (Book No 01) Zild No-157/2011 page No-397-404 CD-25. Bounded as under (as per deed): North-Bijay Pandey, South-Road & Nij, East-Pramod Pandey, West-Prahlad Pandey.	M/s Puja Traders Prop: Smt Lalita Devi W/o Sri Praveen Kumar, Address: Ward No.12, New Area, M.G. Road, Aurangabad, Distt.-Aurangabad (Bihar), PIN-824101	₹ 80,49,766/- (Rs. Eighty Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Six Only) with up to date interest, as on 16.04.2019 Cost & Charges thereon till the date of realization	₹ 52,59,000/- (Rupees Fifty Two Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand only)	₹ 5,25,900/- (Five Lakh Twenty Five Thousand and Nine Hundred Only only)	Aurangabad

Last Date & time for Submission of Process compliance Form with EMD amount: 04.11.2019 till 4.00 PM at Allahabad Bank, Aurangabad Branch, Bihar.

Date & Time of e-auction: 06.11.2019 from 12.30 PM to 2.30 PM at the platform of allahabadbank.auctiontiger.net

For further details and Terms & Conditions, Contact: Shri Mithilesh Kumar Jha (Chief Manager), Mob-8004585000/9593653562, Shri Ayush Kumar Bhadani (Senior Manager), Mob-8052365563, Rajeev Kumar (Branch Manager)-7979096589.

For downloading further details and Terms & Conditions, Please Visit: (i) <https://www.allahabadbank.in> (ii) <http://www.tenders.gov.in> (iii) <https://allahabadbank.auctiontiger.net>

Date : 24.09.2019

Place : Aurangabad

Authorized Officer
Allahabad Bank

इलाहाबाद बैंक

विश्वास की परंपरा

ALLAHABAD BANK

A tradition of trust

Head Office: 2, Netaji Subhash Road, Kolkata-700001

POSSESSION NOTICE FOR (IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas:

The undersigned being the authorised officer of the Allahabad Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rules 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice u/s 13(2) on the date noted against the Account as mentioned hereinafter, calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Allahabad Bank for an amount and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

Name of the Branch	Name of the Account	Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor (Mortgagor)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice	Amount outstanding as on the date of demand notice
Singhpur	M/s Aasma Rana Enterprises, Prop:-Shri Manoj Kumar Singh S/o Shri Brij Kishore Singh, resident of Vill.-Darmi, P.O. Khadiha, PS-Simra, District- Aurangabad, Bihar-824102, Mohalla-Shahpur, Ward No-08, PO- & PS-Aurangabad, Bihar-824101	Smt. Pan Kunwar Devi W/o Shri Brij Kishore Singh	02.04.2019	20.09.2019	₹ 27,19,624/- (Rs. twenty seven lakh nineteen thousand six hundred twenty four Only) plus Interest.

Description of the charged/mortgaged property: All that part and parcel of the land and building along with present and future construction thereon:

(I) In the name of Smt. Pan Kunwar Devi W/o Shri Brij Kishore Singh admeasuring 05 decimal, Sale Deed No-17252 dated 06-12-1989, registered on 17-02-1990, bearing Book No-1, Zild No-7/90, Page No-594-597, Comprising in Khata No-233, Plot No-1209, Thana No-566 Situated at Shahpur Nagar Parishad, Ward No-08, Mauza Shahpur, PS Aurangabad, District- Aurangabad Bihar. Bounded as under: (as per deed) On the North by: Nand Kishore Singh & Yugal Kishore Singh, On the South by: Ram Lalhan Singh & Ashok Singh, On the East by: Gair Majarua, On the West by: Kharidar & Awadesh Singh. (II) In the name of Smt. Pan Kunwar Devi W/o Shri Brij Kishore Singh, Situated at Village- Darmi P.O.-Khadiha, P.S.- Simra District- Aurangabad having Khata No-19 & 3 Plot Nos-315, 336, 517 & 563, Thana-Kutumba, Thana No- 424 Tota Area 48 Decimals vide Registered sale deed No-8640 dated 18-06-1993 Registered on 16-10-1993 bearing book No-1 Zild No-72/93 Page No-355 to 358. Boundary for Khata No-19 & Plot No-315, Area -13 Decimals (As Per deed), On the North by: Raj Kishore Singh, On the South by: Bharat Singh, On the East by: Surendra Singh, On the West by: Santu Singh, Boundary for Khata No-19 & Plot No-336, Area -15 Decimals (As Per deed), On the North by: Purchaser, On the South by: Pind, On the East by: Pind, On the West by: Kaushal Yadav, Boundary for Khata No-19 & Plot No-517, Area -15 Decimals (As Per deed), On the North by Purchaser, On the South by: Mokir, On the East by: Ragho Singh, On the West by: Anirudh Singh & Others Boundary for Khata No-03 & Plot No-563, Area-05 Decimals (As Per deed) On the North by: Ragho Singh On the South by: Purchaser, On the East by: Ragho Singh, On the West by: Raj Kishore Singh & Others

Date : 20.09.2019

Place : Singhpur

Authorised Officer
(Allahabad Bank)



6 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



SELFIE SEEKERS

SUPREME COURT judge Justice D Y Chandrachud was virtually mobbed by law students for pictures and autographs while he was leaving an event in central Delhi on Tuesday. Even when the judge said he was busy with the Ayodhya hearing in the Supreme Court and was in a hurry to leave, the students did not budge. He also tried telling them that seeing them argue in his court would make him happier than posing for a picture, but even that did not discourage the students. He then posed for a few pictures but when requests did not stop, the judge suggested the students take one group selfie and dashed out.

RUSH TO INAUGURATE

THE TMC government in West Bengal stole a march of sorts on Centre as its minister "inaugurated" a portion of a bridge in Bardhaman built by Railways over its own yard. Railways was planning to get it inaugurated by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal next week. Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh termed the TMC's move "ridiculous" on Twitter as the bridge is still undergoing finishing touches. Some say the TMC's eagerness to claim credit for the unique, cable-stayed bridge is because as per rules, the state shares half the cost of such bridges across India. Railways had even informed the state chief secretary that the bridge is not yet complete for public use. Last heard, Railways has now decided to get its MoS Suresh Angadi to formally inaugurate the bridge on Friday.

PLAYING SAFE

THIS TIME, the birth anniversary celebrations of BJP ideologue Deendayal Upadhyaya are going to be unique. Every year, during the celebrations, BJP workers clean statues of Upadhyaya along with other leaders of the RSS and Mahatma Gandhi in their localities. However, this time, a circular issued by BJP president Amit Shah has asked workers to undertake cleanliness drives and also clean statues of great leaders and personalities in and around their towns irrespective of their ideologies. So, BJP office corridors were abuzz with light-hearted chatter that they should ensure they are not photographed cleaning statues of Congress leaders as this could come back to haunt them on social media.

Decide waiver plea on disqualification this month: Sikkim CM to EC

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

SIKKIM CHIEF Minister Prem Singh Tamang has urged the Election Commission (EC) to decide his request for reducing the period of his disqualification before September 30.

Tamang met Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora and Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra on Wednesday to seek early disposal of his plea.

Tamang, who was appointed on May 27, needs to get elected to the legislative assembly within six months of his appointment. However, he is barred from contesting polls on account of being convicted of corruption. If the EC refuses to lift the ban on Tamang, he will have to resign from the post.

As first reported by *The Indian Express* on July 29, Tamang had approached the Commission to waive the remaining period of his disqualification under Section 11 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. On Wednesday, he reiterated the request and urged the Commission to decide the matter before September 30 so that he can contest polls before the six-month deadline ends.

Sikkim went to polls on April 11, simultaneously with the Lok Sabha elections, in which Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM), defeated the the Sikkim Democratic Front, which had ruled the state for five consecutive terms. SKM is an ally of the BJP and part of the NDA at the Centre.

Tamang served a year in prison between 2017 and 2018 after he was found guilty of misappropriating government funds in a cow distribution scheme while he was the minister of animal husbandry in the 1990s.

He was released on August 10, 2018. Under the Representation of People Act, 1951, those convicted and im-



Prem Singh Tamang

EXPLAINED
E.

Within EC's powers

THERE HAVE been precedents of the EC exercising its powers under Section 11 to remove or reduce disqualification of a convicted person. Last year, the poll panel had informed the Supreme Court, in an affidavit, that in 1977 it had reduced the period of disqualification of two Uttar Pradesh MLAs namely Shyam Narain Tiwari and Mitra Sen Yadav. They were convicted of criminal offences.

prisoned under the Prevention of Corruption Act are disqualified from contesting elections during the period of incarceration and until six years after release.

According to EC officials, the Chief Minister, during Wednesday's meeting, made the case that he was framed by his political rival and former Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling. Tamang is learned to have also said that if he cannot retain his chief ministership, horse-trading will ensue.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with (from left) Singapore PM Lee Hsien Loong, Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, South Korean President Moon Jae-in, New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern, Jamaican PM Andrew Holness at UNGA. PTI

PM receives Goalkeeper award, hails commitment of all Indians

Rajasthan girl honoured for opposing child marriages in her village

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 25

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi was on Wednesday honoured with the Global Goalkeeper award by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan launched by his government. Payal Jangid, a 16-year-old activist from Rajasthan, received the Changemaker award for her movement against child marriages in her village.

After receiving the award from Bill Gates, Modi said it is a recognition for the cleanliness mission and the commitment with which 130 crore Indians internalised and spread the message of Swachh Bharat. "When I announced Swachh Bharat, there were adverse comments. But on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, as I stand here to receive the award, I am doing so on behalf of 130 crore people who made sanitation a part of their lives. I am reminded of the old woman who sold her goats to build toilets in her village, the retired teacher who donated his entire pension and the married woman who sold her mangalsutra to build toilets," Modi said.

Sanitation is goal number 6 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On September 25, 2015, at the United Nations headquarters in New York, 193 world leaders committed to the 17 SDGs. These are a series of objec-



Payal Jangid (16) receives the 'Changemaker Award' from UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J Mohammed. PTI

tives aimed at achieving three goals by 2030 — end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and fix climate change.

Goalkeepers is the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's campaign to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs. By sharing stories and data behind the goals through events and an annual report, the foundation hopes to inspire a new generation of leaders — Goalkeepers — who raise awareness of progress, hold their leaders accountable, and drive action to achieve the goals.

Modi said it is the people-led nature of Swachh Bharat that sets it apart. "I know of no other country that has done something like this. A WHO report

people to look at a safe future together with their Pakistani and Indian neighbours, it is imperative to solve the problem through dialogue and on the basis of justice and equity, but not through collision," he said.

"Despite the resolutions adopted by the UNSC, Kashmir is still besieged and eight million people are stuck in Kashmir. They cannot get out," he said. Erdogan said the stability and prosperity of South Asia cannot be separated from the Kashmir issue. "The invasions, conflicts and terrorist activities for almost four decades in Afghanistan have led to instability in the region," he said, talking about the region.

Following Erdogan's remarks, Pakistan PM Imran Khan thanked him for raising the issue at the UNGA. He also said, "I appreciate President Erdogan's statement that the stability and prosperity of South Asia cannot be separated from the Kashmir issue."

Resolve Kashmir issue through dialogue: Erdogan

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 25

TURKEY'S PRESIDENT Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), calling for a solution for the dispute through dialogue between Pakistan and India.

So far, Turkey is the only country to raise the issue of Kashmir at the UNGA. This is not the first time that Turkey has spoken on Kashmir — on August 6, the Turkish Foreign Ministry had expressed "concern" at what it had called "annulment of the Article 370" that "could further increase the existing tension".

On Tuesday, Erdogan said the international community has "failed" to "pay enough attention" to the Kashmir conflict, which "awaits solution" for 72 years.

"In order for the Kashmiri

said that it managed to save 3 lakh lives, UNICEF says Swachh Bharat helped every village save Rs 50,000 by preventing diseases and there is a report by BMGF that says the mission helped improve BMI in women and also helped prevent heart diseases in children. It is not just saving the lives and dignity of Indian people but the 11,000 crore toilets helped in boosting rural economy by giving new avenues of income. India is now making massive strides into cooperative federalism," he said.

He also spoke about programmes like Fit India, National Nutrition Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission and the determination to end single-use plastic by 2022.

Jangid, who works with the Bachpan Bachao Andolan, spoke about her own escape from being married off as a child. "In Hisha village of Rajasthan, my parents are labourers. Now I am now doing my graduation. My experience shows that every young person is capable of making a difference, all they need is an opportunity."

Among the other awardees are Gregory Rockson from Ghana, who won the award for his work on rural pharmacies and Aya Chhebi of Tunisia for a pan-African, action-oriented, youth-led movement that strives for the participation, development and leadership of African youth.

(The author was in New York on the invitation of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)

Trump encouraged PM to improve ties with Pakistan, says White House

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 25

A DAY after the meeting between US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the White House on Wednesday said the President "encouraged Prime Minister Modi to improve relations with Pakistan and fulfill his promise to better the lives of the Kashmiri people".

"The President reaffirmed the importance of greatly increasing trade between the United States and India, and highlighted the need for resolving barriers to free, fair, and reciprocal trade, which includes improving United States companies' market access in India," the statement said.

It also said that both leaders expressed concerns about the situation in Afghanistan.



National Commission for Minorities vice-chairman George Kurian

has got in touch with her family to take up the matter.

Kurian wrote that "fears expressed by the parents are not misplaced, given experiences in earlier similar cases".

India-US trade talks stuck over price cap on medical devices



SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 25

INDIA AND the US were not able to finalise an "understanding" on trade and tariff-related issues, as Delhi was not willing to yield on the price control on medical devices, especially on coronary stents.

According to highly placed sources, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had instructed the Indian negotiators that, keeping the Ayushman Bharat Yojana in mind, the government cannot yield on lifting the price cap on coronary stents.

Sources said the price cap on coronary stents is "critical" to the success of Ayushman Bharat — the government's flagship health coverage scheme. While Delhi wants to keep price control on knee implants as well, the issue of coronary stents was a "red line" for the Indian negotiators.

According to sources, cardiac surgery is among the most sought-after procedures, and government data shows that one- and two-stent angioplasty tops the list of packages offered under the scheme, followed by radiotherapy, knee replacement and hip replacement.

So, while Delhi and Washington bridged the gap on most of the trade and tariff-related issues, this became a key sticking point. While Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan came to New York for last-minute negotiations with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, this issue

could not be resolved.

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale explained that the trade issues are "complex" since they "involve domestic industry on both the sides, jobs on both sides, and reconciling the gives-and-takes requires a certain amount of discussion, and certain amount of balance". "We have made significant progress in the regard and are quite confident we will make further progress in the future," he said.

"We expect it to be a fair and reasonable deal, and we have laid out our requirements, and so has the US side. It is now a matter of negotiating between the two sides on individual issues, to ensure that our requirement of access to the US markets, and for Indian companies and exporters to continue to do so, and also in new products, is secured. We also addressed the US side's concerns regarding what they consider to be trade deficit," he said.

The US government has been pushing India to lift the price caps on coronary stents and knee implants, at the behest of US medical device manufacturers. The medical device imports have jumped 24% to Rs 38,837 crore in FY19, according to the latest export-import data. The US is the largest exporter of medical devices to India, constituting one-fifth of the total, followed by Germany, China, Singapore and the Netherlands.

Gokhale said India and the US have made "significant progress in growing the trade in the last three-four years and also reducing the trade deficit". He said both sides "felt optimistic of reaching some kind of a trade agreement in the near future, and the discussions will continue".

In 2017, India slashed prices by 85% and capped the trade margins for coronary stents, following it up with a round of price controls on knee implants. The move hit many US companies.

Amid Indo-Pak tension, SAARC foreign ministers to meet today



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi



attending a multilateral meeting after the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was revoked.

Speaking at Asia Society Policy Institute in New York on Tuesday, Jaishankar defended the government's move on Article 370 and said the provision in the Constitution that gave Kashmir a special status was a temporary provision.

He said after the Narendra Modi government was re-elected, it looked at its options on

India announces \$150 million line of credit for Pacific Island nations

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 25

FOUR YEARS after India first reached out to the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) in leaders-level summit, New Delhi took another step towards re-engaging with these countries in the forefront of battle against climate change, as well as the Indo-Pacific faultiness between the US and China.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced allocation of \$12 million grant (\$1 million to each PSIDS) towards implementation of high-impact developmental project in the area of their choice.

In addition, a concessional Line of Credit of \$150 million, which can be availed by the PSIDS for undertaking solar, renewable energy and climate related projects based on each country's requirement, was announced.

Addressing leaders of these countries on Tuesday, Modi said, "It is a matter of happiness that India has a friendly relations with all of them. We have a stake in each other's development; we will increase the partnership with this summit."

Reaffirming his commitment for providing development assistance for capacity building, Modi proposed to depute technical experts to provide training and offered to organise specialised courses also under ITEC programme in priority areas identified by partner countries, including "training of diplomats" from Pacific Island nations at the Foreign Service Institute.

In the health sector, the Prime Minister offered to organise a Jaipur Foot Artificial Limb Fitment Camp in a Pacific regional hub under 'India for Humanity' programme.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 74th UNGA and was attended by heads of delegations of Fiji, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Nauru, Republic of Palau, Independent State of Papua New Guinea, The Independent State of Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu and Republic of Vanuatu.

the issue. "And the options were either we do more of the same knowing it doesn't work, or we do something different. So I think the choice was ok, we will do something different. And that something different, by the way, has no implications for the external boundaries of India," he said. Jaishankar said over the years, lack of development and opportunity in Jammu and Kashmir "created a sense of alienation, alienation to separatism, separatism used for terrorism".

Pakistan now sees its "investment" of 70 years undercut if this policy succeeds, he said. "So theirs is today a reaction of anger, of frustration in many ways, because you have built an entire industry over a long period of time." He emphasised that India has no problem talking to Pakistan. "But we have a problem talking to Terrorist. And they have to be one and not be the other," he said.

lication in Jagrata," he wrote to Shah. Quoting the Commission, he stated. "It's shocking that around 4000 girls have been subjected to religious conversion since 2005 (and until 2012) after they fell in love".

According to Kurian, another study has found that more than 2,600 women were converted to Islam between 2006 and 2009. He said he got reports that around 40 or 50 of these women were from Kozhikode district.

"...It was found that in most cases the victims were brainwashed and in some cases they were used as courier for terror activities. Many a time victims' families refuse to come and report the issue fearing threat..." he said.



NORTH

10 killed as truck hits auto-rickshaw in Jind

Chandigarh: Ten men were killed when a truck hit an auto-rickshaw in Haryana's Jind district, police said on Wednesday. The accident took place near a village on Jind-Hisar road Tuesday night, they said.

"Among the dead were eight youths who were returning from an Army recruitment rally in Hisar. The auto-rickshaw driver and a local resident were also killed," a police officer said. Another youth who took part in the recruitment drive was critically injured and is in hospital, he said. The youths killed in the mishap were in the 18-22 years age group, the officer said. **PTI**



Union Home Minister and BJP chief Amit Shah pays tribute to Deendayal Upadhyay on his birth anniversary at the BJP office in Delhi on Wednesday. Prem Nath Pandey

EAST

Bihar cop lodges complaint against Union Minister

Buxar: A complaint has been filed against Union minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey at his Lok Sabha constituency here by a police sub-inspector whom he allegedly threatened in public for sending a notice to a BJP worker, a police officer said on Wednesday.

DSP K K Singh said a complaint has been lodged by S-I Rajiv Ranjan. Choubey was conducting a *janta durbar* on Monday when BJP worker Laxman Dubey said the S-I, who was present at the venue, has sent him a "goonda notice" under Section 109 of CrPC.

Choubey allegedly told the S-I, "You better mend your ways or I will strip you of your uniform." **PTI**

WEST

36-year-old man brutalised in Navi Mumbai; five booked

Mumbai: A 36-year-old man was sexually assaulted by five unidentified people at Vashi in Navi Mumbai, police said on Wednesday.

According to the complainant, he was forcibly taken to a deserted place by five men when he was smoking a cigarette, an officer said. The accused are believed to be in the age group of 25-30 years, the officer said, adding that police suspect they might have been under the influence of drugs.

The victim had to undergo an emergency surgery at a private hospital.

A case has been registered under sections 377 and 34 of the IPC, the officer said, adding that no arrest has been made so far. **PTI**

SOUTH

Telugu actor Venu Madhav dies at 51

Hyderabad: Telugu comedian Venu Madhav, known for his performances in films like *Chatrapati* and *Sye*, died here on Wednesday. He was 51. Madhav had been suffering from multiple ailments, including chronic liver cirrhosis.

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, state Congress president and MP

N Uttam Kumar Reddy, actor-turned-politician and Jana Sena Party founder Pawan Kumar and several other leaders condoled Madhav's death.

TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu said the actor had a liking for the party and that his demise is a great loss to TDP and the Telugu film industry. **PTI**

3 HELD FOR SEDITION GET BAIL AFTER 7 MONTHS

Giving bail to J&K students, judge says: purely pvt chat

JOHNSON T A
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 25

OVER SEVEN months after they were arrested on charges of sedition for their alleged comments "prejudicial to national integration" on social media and quarrelling with a fellow student — in the aftermath of the Pulwama attack — three Kashmiri students have been released on bail in Bengaluru.

Saying that the alleged "anti-national" comments were made in the course of a private conversation on social media, Additional District and Sessions Judge Sayed Baleegur Rahaman granted bail on September 20.

"The said conversation is purely a private conversation that took place between the students... in their Facebook account. Whether the conversation between the students would come within the purview of Section 124 (A) and 153 (B) of the Indian Penal Code has to be considered by this court on merits," the court said.

"Except the Facebook conver-

sation between friends, no other serious allegation is made against accused No. 1 to 3. Considering the age of accused No. 1 to 3 and the fact that they are pursuing their studies, I feel that in the interest of the future of the accused No. 1 to 3, they deserve to be enlarged on bail with stringent conditions as they hail from Jammu and Kashmir," the additional district and sessions court said.

Haris Manzoor (20), Gowhar Mushtaq (21), both students of the Spurthy College of Nursing, and Zaqir Maqbool (23), a student of the Chinai College of Nursing, were arrested on February 16 on the basis of a complaint filed by the Spurthy Nursing College principal, Babu Dharmarajan, who said they had posted an anti-Army message on social media, which led to a brawl in the hostel.

The Suryanagar Police in Anekal taluk of Bangalore Rural district registered a case under Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (supporting an unlawful activity), and under Indian Penal Code Sections 124 A (sedition), 153 A

(promoting enmity between groups), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 504 (provoking breach of peace).

On March 19, a principal sessions court had dismissed their bail pleas on the ground that their comments could "damage" the "integrity" of India. "Taking into consideration the highly dangerous nature of the content uploaded on their Facebook wall, grave nature of the offences alleged and also on account of the fact that such activities are calculated to cause damage to the integrity of India and create disaffection against India in the minds of people, I am of the view that the petitioners are not entitled to be granted bail," Principal Sessions Judge P Krishna Bhat had said.

The students' advocates approached the additional district and sessions court with a fresh bail plea after the police filed a chargesheet in the case under IPC Sections 124 (A) (sedition), 153 (B) (prejudicial to national integration) and Section 13 of UAPA (unlawful activity).

"After the chargesheet was filed, we withdrew petitions we

had filed in the high court and obtained bail in the sessions court. The students have been released," Melanie Sebastian, an advocate for the students, said. The lawyers argued that the final year nursing students would miss their final exams if they remained in prison.

The students were released on execution of personal bonds for Rs 1 lakh each, a local surety, and a cash surety of Rs 25,000 each. They have been told to report to the local police and not leave the region during trial of the case.

According to the FIR in the case, the three students, while responding to a Facebook post by another student, Koushik Debnath, on February 15, a day after the Pulwama attack, called the Indian Army "dogs, soldiers running here and there for money". In his complaint, the principal said: "For sending messages abusing our Indian Army and disrupting national integration, I request you to take appropriate legal action".

The students were also accused of attacking Debnath in the hostel on February 15.

Adityanath to discuss Art 370 move with Valley students

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 25

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is scheduled to hold a discussion on several issues, including Article 370, with Kashmiri students studying in institutions in Aligarh, Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad districts in Lucknow on Saturday.

Mrityunjay Kumar, the CM's media advisor, said most of the students will be from Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), while some will come from other institutes in the three districts. "Most of the students will be coming from AMU," Kumar said. "It will be an exchange of ideas between the students from Kashmir on a range of topics, including Article 370, the current situation in the Valley, and about the move to scrap special status under Article 370. The CM will take suggestions about the situation in Kashmir," Kumar said.

AMU Registrar Abdul Hamid said an invite has been sent to students from Kashmir in the university. "We had informed the students about the invite on Tuesday evening. We had asked students from Kashmir to volunteer... Till Wednesday evening, no student has volunteered to attend the event," Hamid said.

AMU public relations officer (PRO) Omar Peerzada said, "We are waiting for their reply regarding the invitation. We have...informed them that all logistic arrangements will be made by the university."

Sajad Subhan Rather, former AMUSU vice-president, who is from Baramullah, said, "We are holding talks among ourselves (Kashmiri students) about the invite. We will soon take a final call..."



Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow Wednesday. Adityanath interacted with women who faced divorce through the now illegal practice of instant triple talaq and announced an annual assistance of Rs 6,000 to the victims till their rehabilitation. Vishal Srivastav

SC: Right of minority institutions not absolute, amenable to rules

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday ruled that "the right of minority institutions is not absolute, and is amenable to regulation".

"The protection granted to minority educational institutions to admit students of their choice is subject to reasonable restrictions," said a bench of Justices Indu Malhotra and Sanjiv Khanna, upholding rules framed by the Andhra Pradesh government making SSC/Transfer Certificate the basis for a candidate's claim of minority status for admission to BEd courses and requiring minority institutions to allot vacant seats under management quota to non-minority students on merit.

The petitioners claimed the rules were violative of rights of minority educational institu-

tions under Article 30(1) of the Constitution.

The apex court, however, said "the criteria has been prescribed only for the purpose of determining the minority status of the candidates for admission to the B. Ed Course. This would not amount to a restriction, or impose any fetters in the matter of an individual's choice of religion".

The judgment noted that statistical data had been placed before Andhra Pradesh High Court that baptism certificates were being obtained by students from other communities to obtain admission under the management quota. The state's affidavit before the High Court said "a large number of admissions were made on the basis of conversion certificates" and that "in most of these cases, the candidates declared themselves to be Christians subsequent to the

date of submitting their applications for the Entrance Test". It was to check this misuse that the rule was framed, the state said.

Upholding this, the Supreme Court said "it safeguards the interest of genuine minority students, so that their seats are not taken away by those who resort to false conversions overnight..."

The court said the rule requiring minority institutions to allot unfilled seats to non-minorities was brought following "statistical data which showed that the number of colleges, and the seats available for minorities, were highly disproportionate, and far in excess of the population as per the 2001 Census."

The court said this "does not, in any manner, interfere with the right of a Minority Educational Institution to manage its affairs for the benefit of the Minority Community".

J&K HC junks plea to scrap PSA detention order at pre-execution stage

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

IN WHAT is the first court order related to habeas corpus petitions challenging detentions under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) after special status to J&K was scrapped on August 5, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court has dismissed the plea of a person who had urged the court to quash the detention order on grounds of "inordinate and unexplained delay".

According to the petitioner, the order passed by the district magistrate was not executed.

In rejecting the plea, the High Court observed that "judicial review" of detention order "before it is actually executed" is to be done "sparingly".

The order is likely to have a bearing in similar cases if challenged before the High Court — cases in which PSA were slapped but those people were not detained.

The order by the single bench of Justice Sanjeev Kumar came on September 18, nearly a month after the detention order was passed against the petitioner by the Srinagar district magistrate on August 16.

Justice Kumar noted in his order, "...no case is made out for indulgence in the impugned order of detention, that too in exercise of judicial review, much less interference at pre-executing stage... writ petition is dismissed."

The petitioner had stated in his plea before HC that although the detention order was passed on August 16, "no immediate effort was made by the respondent (District Magistrate) to execute" it. "The inordinate and unexplained delay in execution is said

to have rendered the detention order purposeless and, therefore, detention of the petitioner would be unjustified and unconstitutional," the petitioner submitted.

Given this delay, "it is a fit case where this court could exercise its powers and stay detention of the petitioner", it stated.

In his order rejecting the plea, Justice Kumar said four parameters have to be followed in judicial review at pre-execution stage: "(in cases) that the order is not passed under the Act under which it is purported to have been passed; that it is sought to be executed against a wrong person; passed for a wrong purpose; passed on vague, extraneous and irrelevant grounds... or that the authority which passed it had no authority to do so."

But in the present case, the court said, none of these contingencies exist. "It is not the case of petitioner that order has not been passed J&K Public Safety Act, nor that it is being executed against a wrong person. There is nothing on record to show that detention order has been passed for a wrong purpose," the court observed.

Justice Kumar said it has been "clearly shown" in the detention order that it is "necessary to prevent the petitioner from indulging in activities prejudicial to maintenance of public order".

The court said it is "also not in dispute that District Magistrate, Srinagar, is a competent authority to pass order of detention under provisions of J&K Public Safety Act".

"...this court does not find any glaring irregularity on the face of record which would impel exercise of judicial review against detention at pre-execution stage," the court said.

Two lawyers held under PSA, J&K admin cites drastic ideology, Bar misuse

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25

■ *"Being a lawyer by profession, you have drastic ideology as you were looking after criminal cases which were sub-judice before various courts against separatists."*

■ *"The subject... has been misusing platform of Bar Association which is regarded with esteem as per the status given to it in the Constitutional system."*

THESE ARE among the many charges cited to book the Valley's two top lawyers, including president of Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association in Srinagar Miyan Abdul Qayoom, under the Public Safety Act (PSA). Their families have filed habeas corpus petitions which are now being heard by Jammu and Kashmir High Court.

According to the High Court Bar Association, four advocates have been arrested under PSA. Nazir Ahmad Ronga is in Central Jail Muradabad and Miyan Qayoom was sent to Central Jail Agra. Fayaz Ahmad Sodagar, Anantnag bar president and Abdul Salam Rather, Baramulla bar president, have also been arrested under PSA.

The order for detention of the two lawyers signed by District Magistrate, Srinagar, followed dossiers prepared by J&K Police.

Nazir Ahmad Ronga (55)

The order says Ronga "is affiliated with APHC (M) group, a secessionist organisation". "Since you were inclined towards separatists' ideology and readily accepted offer and joined Hurriyat (M). Being a lawyer by profession, you have drastic ideology as you were looking after criminal cases which were sub-judice before various courts against separatists," the document said.

Stating that Ronga "very

vocal against abolishing of Article 370 and 35 A of Constitution of India and also against bifurcation of erstwhile J&K state", it added, "You have led many protests marches in this behalf and created problems in public order within District Srinagar... Your capacity can be gauged from this fact that you were able to convince your electorate to come out and vote in huge numbers during poll boycotts."

The order said that "it appears that under a well-knit conspiracy, you and your other associates are intentionally resorting to such activities which disturb the public peace... in order to stop you from indulging in above activities, your detention under the provision of J&K Public Safety Act at this stage has become imperative."

Miyan Abdul Qayoom (75)

As per the document, Qayoom "has adverse record in view of his active involvement in various cases registered against subject in District Srinagar under various laws".

"Miyan Abdul Qayoom over a period of time has emerged as one of the most staunch advocates of secessionist ideology. His belief that Jammu and Kashmir is disputed territory and it has to be seceded from Union of India and to annex with Pakistan has been repeatedly articulated in public... through his speeches, appeals and active participating in such activities," the document read.

It added that for achieving this objective, Qayoom "has been misusing platform of Bar Association..."

"...all other options of preventing him from indulging in such activities stand exhausted as well as no other legal remedy or option is available at this stage to contain his activities strongly prejudicial to maintenance of public order," said the document.

PM to declare country ODF on Oct 2: Gujarat Dy CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GANDHINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 25

ON THE 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Centre has planned a "Swachhata Diwas" event in Ahmedabad where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will declare the entire nation "Open Defecation Free" (ODF) at an event attended by 20,000 sarpanches from across India, Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said on Wednesday.

"This will be the biggest social revolution post-independence," Patel told mediapersons. The event will be held on the Sabarmati Riverfront and Sabarmati Ashram.

Patel said 10,000 sarpanches will come from across Gujarat for the event and the rest from various states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra,

Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Haryana. The Gujarat government will be hosting them for three days and has arranged for 400 buses to take them to Sabarmati Riverfront.

Patel said sarpanches from outside the state will start arriving from September 29. They have been grouped into four zones and taken to places connected to Gandhi in those zones. Those included in Surat zone will be taken to Dandi Memorial, those in Vadodra zone will be taken to Statue of Unity "built in memory of Gandhiji's colleague Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel", and those in Mehsana and Ahmedabad zones will taken to Dandi Kutir.

Asked why Porbandar, the birthplace of Gandhi, and Rajkot have been left out, Patel said the event in Ahmedabad is being organised in addition to celebrations at Porbandar and Rajkot.



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 25

THE INDIAN National Lok Dal (INLD) Wednesday announced that it will give 33 per cent tickets to women candidates in the Haryana Assembly polls scheduled for October 21.

The announcement was made by former Chief Minister and INLD supremo Om Prakash Chautala while addressing the 'Sammam Diwas Rally' to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal at Kaithal. Chautala also said the party will release its list of candidates on Gandhi Jayanti.



O P Chautala at the INLD rally at Kaithal

Extolling the contribution of Devi Lal in pioneering farmer-friendly policies, Chautala said that while other parties have only paid lip service to farmers, the INLD has never failed to deliver on its promises. He promised that if INLD is voted back to power, it will ensure that recommendations of Swaminathan Commission are implemented so that farmers get

fair and remunerative prices for their produce. At present, he said, farmers are perennially in debt with no hope of relief. He assured that with the implementation of the commission's recommendations, farmers will no longer be dependent on loans.

INLD leader Abhay Singh Chautala said that if voted to power, INLD will waive loans of

farmers and small traders to the tune of Rs 10 lakh. Also, electricity bill for agricultural consumption will be waived and electricity bill for domestic consumption of farmers will be halved, he said.

He also promised a grant of Rs 5 lakh for women at the time of marriage. The party also promised free higher education for girls.

Other promises made by Abhay Singh included a job to at least one member of a family and an unemployment allowance of Rs 15,000 to the youth.

Criticising the incumbent government's policy on tractors, he reminded the people that Devi Lal had recognised tractor as integral to farmers' needs and exempted it from taxes. He promised that if the INLD comes to power, the government will bear all expenses for the registration of the tractors.

The party promised a two-room house on a 200 m plot to defence personnel from the state.

INX Media case: Chidambaram says never met Indrani

PRITAMPAL SINGH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

FORMER FINANCE minister P Chidambaram on Wednesday denied before the Delhi High Court that he met Indrani Mukerjea in connection with granting the Foreign Investment Promotion Board approval to INX Media.

"Blanket, full in totality, I deny that I ever met her (Indrani) at any place," senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Chidambaram told Justice Suresh Kumar Kait.

The submission of the 74-year-old Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP's counsel came after the judge asked during a hearing of his bail plea if "Indrani ever met P Chidambaram?"

The query was put to Singhvi in connection with Indrani, former director of INX Media, and her husband Peter Mukerjea's statement that when they met Chidambaram in his North Block office in 2006, he had asked them to meet his son and suggested that they help him in his business.

Karti, who was present in the courtroom, too said, "I deny 100 per cent. He (Chidambaram) never met her. I (Karti) have never met anyone connected directly or indirectly to this entity called INX."

She had recorded in her statement on February 17, 2018, now part of court documents, that Karti had asked them (Mukerjeas) for a bribe when



P Chidambaram

they met at a hotel in Delhi.

In July, the Delhi special court had allowed Indrani's application to turn approver in an alleged corruption case against her company. She is currently in Mumbai's Byculla jail in connection with the murder case of her daughter Sheena Bora.

Probing charges of corruption in the INX Media case, the CBI had arrested Chidambaram on August 21. The next day, he was remanded in CBI custody for 15 days and is now in judicial custody in Tihar jail till October 3. Karti is out on bail in the matter.

During the arguments, Singhvi also apprised the court that the charges of cheating and criminal conspiracy against Chidambaram are not grave in nature and he should be released on bail.

Justice Kait concluded hearing the submissions by Chidambaram's advocates on his bail petition and fixed the matter for Friday when Solicitor General Tushar Mehta will commence his arguments on behalf of the CBI.

Delhi court dismisses Shivakumar's bail plea

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

A DELHI court Wednesday dismissed the bail application of Karnataka Congress leader DK Shivakumar in a money laundering case registered by the Enforcement Directorate, saying his release may hamper the probe which is at a crucial stage.

The ED arrested Shivakumar on September 3 in connection with a money laundering case filed last year following an investigation by the Income Tax Department in 2017, when unaccounted cash to the tune of more than Rs 8 crore was found in New Delhi in locations allegedly linked to the Congress leader.

Special Judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar refused to grant any relief to Shivakumar, currently lodged in Tihar jail, while noting that he is an influential person and may influence the witnesses or tamper with documents.

"The investigation in the present case is still at the initial stage. In the course of arguments, the ED



DK Shivakumar

has shown certain documents like the list of 317 bank accounts and other documents of properties, etc which show that investigation is still at the crucial stage of examining the documents and their nexus with the assets of the applicant/accused," the judge said.

The court said the court has to be conscious of an individual's liberty while considering bail application, but it cannot ignore the interest of society as such.

"Medical ground by itself considering the nature of the offence and the stage of investigation is not considered a justified ground for bail. The bail application is dismissed," the court said.

HC stays Azam's arrest in 27 land-grab cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 25

IN A relief to Samajwadi Party MP Azam Khan, the Allahabad High Court on Wednesday ordered a stay on his arrest in 27 criminal cases of alleged grabbing of land in Rampur, subject to his cooperation in the police investigation.

The 27 FIRs were lodged between July 13 and July 20 this year by Rampur administration over alleged land grab for expansion of Mohammad Ali Jauhar University — Azam Khan is the chancellor of the private university run by a trust.

Farmers in the area have alleged that Azam Khan and for-

mer deputy superintendent of police Aaley Hasan — who is now retired and currently working as the chief security officer of the university — forcibly took away their land between 2004 and 2005 and made it a part of the university campus, which is spread in an area of over 300 acres.

In total, Khan is facing 86 cases, including the 27 lodged since April this year. Other than land grab charge, allegations against him include theft, criminal intimidation, cheating, criminal trespass and hate speech, among others.

The Bench of Justice Manoj Misra and Justice Manju Rani Chauhan has fixed October 24 as the next date of hearing.

'DISCIPLINARY ACTION CAN BE TAKEN OVER SUCH MISCONDUCT'

Illegal for advocates to boycott court: Uttarakhand HC

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, SEPTEMBER 25

THE UTTARAKHAND High Court on Wednesday ordered that it is illegal for advocates to resort to strikes or boycott of the courts, and disciplinary action can be taken by the State Bar Council and its disciplinary committee for such misconduct. The court also said that a litigant, who suffers entirely on account of his advocate's non-appearance in court, can sue the lawyer for damages.

Justice Ramesh Ranganathan and Justice Alok Kumar Verma ruled that no court is obliged to adjourn a case because of a strike call as it is its solemn duty to proceed with judicial business during court hours.

The order came on a PIL filed by one Ishwar Shandilya in 2016. The petitioner's counsel, Kartikey Hari Gupta, said the hearing of Shandilya's case in Dehradun district court was getting repeatedly deferred due to strikes called by lawyers.

Gupta said that lawyers of District Bar Association of Dehradun, Haridwar and



No REVENGE POLITICS: FADNAVIS

Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at an event to mark the 86th birth anniversary of Mathadi leader Annasaheb Patil, at APMC market, Navi Mumbai. Fadnavis clarified that the BJP-led state government had no role in the ED case against NCP president Sharad Pawar. "The state government doesn't harbour any revengeful approach," the chief minister told reporters. *Narendra Vaskar*

Maharashtra never bowed down before Delhi throne, says Pawar

'Will visit ED office, it shouldn't think I am untraceable'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 25

A DAY after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) registered a case of alleged money laundering against him, NCP chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday said that he would voluntarily visit the ED office in Mumbai on Friday despite not receiving any summons from the agency. Pawar claimed that he was volunteering to meet the ED, as he did not want the agency to believe that he had vanished or was avoiding an inquiry.

In a veiled reference to the Narendra Modi government at the Centre, the 79-year-old told mediapersons in Mumbai: "Maharashtra is a state that follows the ethos of Chattrapati Shivaji. We have a history where we have never bowed down before the throne of Delhi."

"I will cooperate fully with the investigating agency. I also



NCP chief Sharad Pawar addresses the media in Mumbai. *Prashant Nadkar*

want to understand what the exact crime is."

"For the next one month, I will be campaigning across the state. I will be spending a lot of time outside Mumbai. In such a situation, if the ED decides to send me some sort of love message and in case I am not in Mumbai, they should not think that I have become invisible or am not traceable," he added.

"For this reason, I will person-

ally go to the ED office at 2 pm on Friday and share all the information that the ED officials need from me. I am also ready to accept any other hospitality that they want to dole out to me," the former Union minister said in an oblique reference to the manner in which former home minister P Chidambaram was arrested recently in the INX Media case.

Pawar claimed that the people of Maharashtra were wise enough to understand why he was being targeted. "Elections are just around the corner, nominations are to be filed soon. This issue has been raised at this juncture. People are wise enough to understand what it means," he said.

Meanwhile, five NCP activists were detained as party workers staged a protest outside the ED's office in Mumbai on Wednesday to condemn the registration of a money laundering case against party chief Sharad Pawar and 70 others.

NRC won't happen in Bengal: Mamata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 25

AMID GROWING panic in West Bengal over the implementation of NRC, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday asked administrative officials to help people who have been thronging government offices for obtaining proof of residence or rectification of voter identity cards.

Urging people not to panic, the Chief Minister reiterated that the NRC will not be implemented in West Bengal. "NRC will not happen in Bengal... It is shocking that 11 people have committed suicide fearing that NRC will be implemented in the state," Mamata said while addressing an administrative meeting at Debra in West Midnapore district.

West Bengal Police on Tuesday had said that at least eight persons have died or committed suicide in the state over alleged fear over the implementation of NRC following the exclusion of 19 lakh people from the citizenship register in neighbouring Assam.

"When a person comes to you for his voter card or other documents, please do not drive him or her out. Some people may not have the proper documents... Some may have lost their papers,



Mamata Banerjee listens to people's grievances in Debra, West Midnapore. *Express*

some papers may have been damaged during the floods. Please do not drive them away. Ask them to lodge a police complaint and do the needful according to law," the CM told the BDOs and other officials at the meeting.

On the ongoing census and ration-digitising process, the CM asked the BDOs, MLAs and elected representatives of local bodies to go door-to-door for the survey. "Why are you not conducting a door-to-door survey. BDOs should undertake the surveys. MLAs, panchayat samiti members and zilla parishad members should go for the surveys. Genuine names should be included in the voters' list," she said. She also warned officials of touts and middlemen who are trying to exploit people in the name of offering documents.

Wakf lawyer: Didn't accept that Chabutra was Ram's birthplace

ANANTHAKRISHNAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

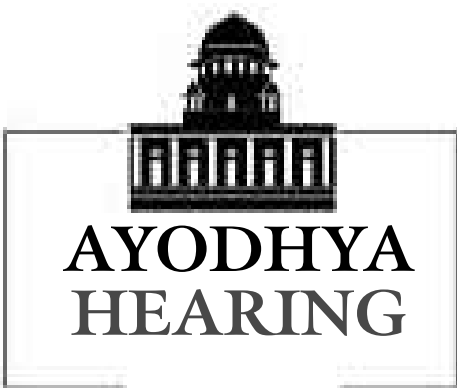
A DAY after conceding that the Ram Chabutra located on outer yard of the disputed site in Ayodhya was the birthplace of Ram, the Sunni Central Wakf Board on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that it had not made any such acceptance, but merely said it had not questioned a Faizabad court's 1886 finding that Hindus worshipped the Chabutra under the belief that it was Ram's birthplace.

"What I said was not our acceptance... Since the Faizabad judge said so, we have not taken any steps for eviction," senior advocate Zafaryab Jilani, appearing for the Sunni Board, told a five-judge Constitution bench headed by CJI Ranjan Gogoi hearing the Ayodhya dispute case.

The bench also comprises Justices S A Bobde, D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan, and S Abdul Nazeer.

Arguing the case for the mosque side later, senior advocate Meenakshi Arora also said, "Mr Jilani said something accidentally (on Tuesday) and it got registered everywhere."

On Wednesday, Arora tried to question contents of the Archeological Survey of India's (ASI) report — the ASI had excavated the disputed site on



Allahabad High Court's orders.

The bench said the mosque side should have questioned this during the trial, and not now during appeal.

Referring to relevant provisions in Civil Procedure Code, which says any party to a suit may urge the trial court to summon the commissioner (author of the report) and examine them, Justice Chandrachud asked why this was not done.

"You should have sorted this out in trial court. You should have called for the witness... This is not the place for it," Justice Bobde said.

Arora replied that objections were filed before the HC, which was hearing the Ayodhya case trial at the time, and the court had said it will consider them at a later stage but did not do so.

"You had to do it in the process known to law," Justice Nazeer pointed out.

CJI Gogoi asked, "Why should we hear you?... None of your objections, however strong, can be

entertained by us when you have not raised these objections in trial."

Justice Bobbe added, "The reason we say so is because the expert may have had an answer."

The bench asked Arora to consider this aspect and reply when she resumes her arguments on Thursday.

Arora said chapter 10 of the report — the "Summary" — was not attributed to any archeologist even as the other nine chapters were. So, she submitted, it could not have been accepted as evidence.

To this, the bench said the report was submitted as a whole by archeologists Hari Manjhi and B R Hari. Later, after inquiries, the CJI said it was submitted along with a miscellaneous application, requesting the court to take it on record and the HC had passed an order in it.

Arora also disputed the ASI findings on pillar bases and other evidence recovered after digging the site, which the court again said should have been put to the experts during trial.

The senior counsel said archeology is a social science, and not a natural science, and the ASI report does not provide any verifiable conclusion. It is thus only an opinion of the archeologists, and being an opinion is very weak evidence, she submitted.

POWER, WATER TO BE CUT Kerala govt moves in to demolish flats near Kochi

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 25

WITH THE Supreme Court set to take up on Friday the case of action taken to demolish four apartment complexes constructed in violation of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms in Maradu municipality, in Ernakulam district, the Kerala government has initiated steps to vacate the flats.

Following a direction from the state government, the municipality has directed the State Electricity Board, Kerala Water Authority and public sector gas agencies to cut supply to these complexes within three days.

Residents of 343 units in these residential complexes are, meanwhile, gearing up to resist moves to evict them — they say they have been staying in these flats for several years, and they should not be punished for a fault on part of the authorities.

Key accused in Bulandshahr riots case granted bail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, SEPTEMBER 25

YOGESH RAJ, main accused in the Bulandshahr riots case, was granted bail by the Allahabad High Court on Wednesday.

"An official copy by the Allahabad High Court will be sent for verification. The process can take up to three-four days after which the jail authorities will release him. We had been pleading his innocence since the beginning, and we respect the decision of the honourable court," said Yogesh Raj's lawyer Bruno Bhushan.

Yogesh Raj was granted bail in the sedition case on Wednesday and had earlier been given bail in the rioting and conspiracy case.

On December 3, a riot broke out in Bulandshahr's Siyana area following a protest over alleged cow slaughter at a farm. In the melee, Siyana in-charge inspector Subodh Kumar Singh was shot dead allegedly by one of the protesters using his service revolver. Another accused, Sumit, who was part of the mob, was killed as the policeman fired at him in self-defence.

A special investigation team had filed a chargesheet against 38 accused in connection with the violence. Thirty-three of them, including Yogesh Raj, were charged with rioting and violence, and the rest with the murder.

Mid-Day's Shailesh Gupta is new INS chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 25

SHAILESH GUPTA of *Mid-Day* has been elected president of The Indian Newspaper Society for 2019-20 at its 80th annual general meeting held here Wednesday.

He succeeds Jayant Mammen Mathew of *Malayala Manorama*. L Adimoolam (*Health & The Antiseptic*) is the deputy president, D D Purkayastha

(*Ananda Bazar Patrika*) the vice president and Naresh Mohan (*Sunday Statesman*) the honorary treasurer of the Society for 2019-20.

Mary Paul is the secretary general of the Society.



Shailesh Gupta

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF NES
No. Himurja /SHP/Advt/2019-20
Dated: 25.09.2019

(INVITATION TO PRIVATE INVESTORS FOR EXPLOITING SMALL HYDRO POTENTIAL IN THE STATE)
Himachal Pradesh Government invites proposals from Private investors for setting up small Hydro Electric Projects upto 5.00 MW capacity for 11 Identified Project sites. The proposals are also invited for self identified Projects upto 5.00 MW capacity. The Private Investors will have to execute the project from beginning till commissioning including preparation of feasibility report, survey & investigation and preparation of DPR.
Details of the 11 Identified Small Hydro Electric Projects, application format and guidelines can be obtained from the office of the Director Himurja, SDA Complex, Kasumpti Shimla-9, from **26.09.2019 to 25.11.2019** against payment of application fee of Rs. 10,000/- only (Rs. Ten Thousand) (non refundable) to be paid in the shape of Demand Draft in favour of "Director Himurja" payable at Shimla. The guidelines and application format can also be obtained from Himurja website: www.himurja.hp.gov.in. In such case the application fee of Rs. 10,000/- only is to be deposited with the application in the shape of Demand Draft payable at Shimla. The applications should be submitted on or before **25.11.2019 upto 5.00 PM**.
The applicants have also to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) @ Rs. 50,000/- per MW (Refundable in case of unsuccessful applicants and to be adjusted against security deposit in case of successful applicant) with the application in shape of Demand Draft in favour of Director Himurja payable at Shimla. The applications shall be submitted in sealed cover duly superscribed "**APPLICATION FOR ALLOTMENT OF IDENTIFIED SELF IDENTIFIED SMALL HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT**". Applications not submitted on the prescribed format or not accompanied with application fee and EMD shall not be accepted and shall be rejected outrightly.
IMPORTANT:
1. Small Hydro Electric Projects upto 2.00 MW capacity are exclusively reserved for Himachalis.
2. If the IPP is interested to apply for more than one project, separate application along with requisite application fee & EMD is to be submitted.
3. The Government of Himachal Pradesh reserves the right to reject any or all the applications without assigning any reasons.
4. The IPPs are advised to visit the sites before putting in application(s) for identified as well as self identified projects to ensure that the site does not clash with already allotted/identified or under investigation schemes of Himurja/Directorate of Energy/HPSEB Ltd.by any other Government Agency. It will be the responsibility of the applicant to check with the record of concerned agency before putting in an application. In case of subsequent discovery of any overlap or duplication, the application will be rejected and application fee will not be refunded.
5. No applications/proposals will be entertained on Tirthan River & its tributaries in Kullu district and on major rivers: Ravi, Satlu, Yamuna, Chanderbhaba & Beas.

Chief Executive Officer,
Himurja, 8-A, SDA Complex
Kasumpti-Shimla-171009
Tel:0117-2620365/2621783

Principal Secretary (NES) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh
Shimla-171002

NORTHERN RAILWAY
AMENDMENT
In reference to the Notice No. 43-Med/LP/Advt./2019, published on 19.09.2019 in various newspapers regarding invitation of applications for Panel of Retail Shops/Authorized Stockist for supply of Medicines. In this Notice within 5 of NRCH may be read as within 5 KM of NRCH.
Other terms & conditions will remain same.
2294A/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY INDORE
Khandwa Road, Simrol, Indore- 453 552
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
E-tenders are invited by IIT Indore for the following work:

Sl.	NIT No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.)
1	IIIT/ES/PR/SG/MC/W/2019-20/46	Construction of Approach Road and external Development of guest house at IIT Indore	1,58,00,000

For complete details including last date for submission of tenders, please visit <https://www.tenderwizard.com/IIIT>
Sd/-
Project In-Charge

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Signal and Telecom Engineer/Co/Moradabad for and on behalf of President of India invites Open tenders through E-Tendering system for the following work:-

Tender No. & Description of work	Approx. cost Rs.	Earnest Money Rs.	Cost of Tender form Rs.	Last date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender
208/RT-3J-Sig&S/T/GM/OOT/18-19 "Interlocking of Mansarovar L.C. gates having TVU > 50000 and < 100000 in D-Spl. & E route over MB Division (LC-21, 22, 36, 43 & 50)."	5115612.28.	122900/-	5000.00	18.10.2019 up to 14.00 hrs. and 18.10.2019 at 15.00 hrs.

Note: Complete details of tender can be seen at www.irps.gov.in Tender Notice No. 208/RT-3J-Sig&S/T/GM/OOT/18-19. Dated: 24.09.2019
3079H19
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Corporate Identity No.: UAH105UP20019ECCE54872318
Victoria Cross Vaidya Gaur Singh Bina Bhawan, Kanoli Road, Dehradun-248001
Tel. No.: 0135-210072-73. Fax No.: 0135-2700219 Website: www.uttarakhandpower.co.in
CORRIGENDUM TO E-TENDER NOTICE
This office e-tender specification No. CCP-II/2/2019-2020 invited previously for supply of 11KV Tri-vector meters are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The e-tender can be purchased and submitted upto 17.00 hrs of 04.10.2019. Part-I of the e-tender shall be opened on 05.10.2019 at 16.30 hrs.
Other terms and conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website www.uttarakhandpower.co.in
Superintending Engineer
Corporate (Contract & Procurement-II)
No. 011/EE/CM/UPCL/A-2/DL 24.09.2019
"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION"
(Toll-Free No. 1800 419 0495) *Any Electricity bill online 24x7 from www.upcl.org
(For Information on Electricity thefts, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 160 4448)

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, KEONJHAR
(A Constituent College of BPUT, Rourkela)
At: Jamunalia, P.O.: Old Town, Dist.: Keonjhar, Pin: 755002 (Odisha)
Tel.: 96766-213130 (O). Website: www.gcekjr.ac.in, Mail Id: principal@gcekjr.ac.in
IFB No. GCE/TEQIP-III/2019/364 Date: 25.09.2019
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR GOODS
Sealed Bids are invited from the Interested Firms/Authorised Dealers/OEMs for procurement of Equipment Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) in the Institute through National Competitive Bidding under TEQIP-III Project as per the guidelines of World Bank. For more details and the updated information please visit our college official website: <http://www.gcekjr.ac.in/tenders/>. The detailed invitation for Bid (IFB) Document has been uploaded in college website. Last date of submission of bid for procurement of SEM is 26.10.2019.
Sd/-
Principal

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, JEYPORE (R&B)
CIRCLE, JEYPORE
e-Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. S.E.J.C (R&B)-027/2019-20
No.2269 Date: 25.09.2019

No.	Name of the work	
1.	Total No. Works	: Building Work
2.	Estimated cost	: 01 (One) No
3.	Period of completion	: Rs.182.48 Lakhs
4.	Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal	: 07 (Seven) Months
5.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the Portal	: 17.00 hours of 17.10.2019
6.	Opening date of Bid	: 17.00 hours of 17.10.2019
7.	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: Superintending Engineer Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>
Sd/-
Superintending Engineer Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
(Through e-procurement mode only over: <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in>)
Tender Notice No.- PR 411/2019
Bihar School Examination Board, Patna invites e-tenders under two bid systems from the reputed Agency/ Sound Firms/Companies for the "Procurement and installation of cloud infrastructure for hosting Online Facilitation System for Students and various services of Bihar School Examination Board".
Scope of Work: Procurement and installation of cloud infrastructure for hosting Online Facilitation System for Students and various services of Bihar School Examination Board.

Cost of Tender document (in Rupees)	Tender processing Fee (Non Refundable) (inclusive of GST @18.00%) to be paid through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/ Credit Card/Debit card) (in Rupees)	Earnest Money (in Rupees)
2000.00 (Two Thousand Rupees only)	1,180 (One Thousand One Hundred Eighty Rupees only)	2,00,000 (Two Lakhs Rupees only)

Tender Schedule/ Programme

Date and Time for Activity	Date/Time/ Duration
Online Sale/Download date of Tender documents	From 26.09.2019 (11:00 Hrs.) to 17.10.2019 (11:00 Hrs.) (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
Pre-Bid meeting	30.09.2019 at 12:15 Hrs. (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Last Date/Time for submission/ uploading of offer/Bid	17.10.2019 up to 13:00 Hrs. (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in)
Submission of term fee & EMD in Hard copy/Original	17.10.2019 up to 13:30 Hrs. (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid	17.10.2019 at 15:00 Hrs. (https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Financial Bid Opening Date and Time	Date to be announced later by competent authority.

Detailed descriptions of the items and instructions for submitting your offer can be downloaded from e-tender website <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in>.
For support related to e-tendering process, Bidders may contact at "e-Procurement HELP DESK First Floor, M-222, Bank of India Building, Road No-25, Sri Krishna Nagar, Patna-800001, Ph. No: 0612-2523006, Mob- 7542628184" or may visit the link "Vendor Info" at <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in>.
Corrigendum / Addendum, if any, will be published on e-Procurement Portal, Bihar <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in> itself.
Contact Details: Sh. Jai Kishore Singh, Nodal officer - +91 6299923095, E-Mail ID - eproc.bsbeb@gmail.com
Note: - Bihar School Examination Board reserves the right to accept/reject/reschedule any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.
Secretary

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-OPEN TENDER
No. WSS/Earning/CBHS&BU Date: 23.09.19
For and on behalf of the India invited e-open tender (E-Tender) Notice No. -CW-Sonpur-30-2019 from experienced contractor for the work given below:-
1. Name of the work with its location: On Board Housekeeping Services (CBHS) at coaching depot B.U. 2. Approx. Cost of the work: ₹ 3,95,46,723.14 (₹ Three crore ninety five lakh forty six thousand seven hundred eighty three rupees fourteen paise only). 3. Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹ 3,47,700.00 (Three lakh forty seven thousand seven hundred only). 4. Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of tender: 1. Tender submission date: 21.10.2019 upto 15.00 Hrs. Opening date: 21.10.2019 after 15.00 Hrs. E. Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.: Website: www.irps.gov.in
Railway administration reserves the right to postpone/ modify or to cancel the tender anytime without assigning any reasons.
DEETL (AC)/SEE
PR/1274/SEE/Elect/7/19-20/32

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, DELHI WATER SUPPLY MAINTENANCE UNIT, U.P. JAL NIGAM, R-1, RAJ NAGAR, NEAR HINT CHOURAHA, GAZIABAD (U.P.) PIN 201002
Letter No.: 1084/Nivida/59 Date: 24.09.2019
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE
Online percentage rate short term e-tender for "Protection of Aqueduct at Hindon under 270 cusec for Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Scheme" is hereby invited in single bid system on behalf of M.D., U.P. Jal Nigam from the contractors registered with U.P. Jal Nigam in Class-"B" (Civil Works) and having requisite work experience and financial capability. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> latest by 26.09.2019. Interested contractors may view & download tender document and upload their bids, duly filled, online latest by 04.10.2019 up to 01:30 P.M. Technical & Financial Evaluation cum financial Bid of E-tender shall be opened on 04.10.2019 at 03:30 P.M.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, DELHI WATER SUPPLY MAINTENANCE UNIT, U.P. JAL NIGAM, R-1, RAJ NAGAR, NEAR HINT CHOURAHA, GAZIABAD (U.P.) PIN 201002
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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, DELHI WATER SUPPLY MAINTENANCE UNIT, U.P. JAL NIGAM, R-1, RAJ NAGAR, NEAR HINT CHOURAHA, GAZIABAD (U.P.) PIN 201002
Letter No.: 1085/Nivida/59 Date: 24.09.2019
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE
Online percentage rate short term e-tender for "Internal Surface Repair between Manhole no 27 & 31 under 200 cusec Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Scheme and cleaning of syphon under 270 cusec Delhi water supply maintenance scheme" is hereby invited in single bid system on behalf of M.D., U.P. Jal Nigam from the contractors registered with U.P. Jal Nigam in Class-"B" (Civil Works) and having requisite work experience and financial capability. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> latest by 26.09.2019. Interested contractors may view & download tender document and upload their bids, duly filled, online latest by 03.10.2019 up to 01:30 P.M. Technical & Financial Evaluation cum financial Bid of E-tender shall be opened on 03.10.2019 at 03:30 P.M.

DELHI URBAN SHELTER IMPROVEMENT BOARD GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, C-7 RANA PRATAP BAGH, DELHI-110007
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Executive Engineer, C-7,DUSIB, R. P. Bagh Delhi-110007 invites on behalf of Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, percentage rate bid (On Line) on two bid system for the following work:
NIT No: 62/EEC-7/DUSIB/2019-20
NAME OF WORK: Improvement of SC/ST Basties. SUB HEAD : Providing & laying RMC Pavement at internal Lanes of Block-C at Sangam Park AC-18 Model Town (PID NO-10410)
Esstt. Cost :- Rs. 56,17,853.00
Earnest Money - Rs.1,12,400.00
Tender Cost Rs. 1,000.00 Period of completion : 180 Days
NIT No: 63/EEC-7/DUSIB/2019-20
Name of work: MLA LAD Fund. Sub-head: Providing and laying CC pavement and improvement of drainage system of different location at approach road/ Link Road around Block A and C 12 Gaz plot La Bagh, Azadpur, AC-18. (PID No.12089).
Esstt. Cost :- Rs. 50,11,023.00
Earnest Money - Rs.1,00,250.00
Tender Cost Rs. 1,000.00 Period of completion : 180 Days
NIT No: 64/EEC-7/DUSIB/2019-20
Name of Work: Construction of Community Hall/BVK Sub Head : Up-gradation including AR and MO, relaying of sewer line, replacing damage kota stone outside the building, providing fastener in the stone wall cladding and other repair etc. at Community Hall Sangam Park AC-18 (PID NO-11750).
Esstt. Cost :- Rs. 43,54,070.00
Earnest Money - Rs.87,100.00
Tender Cost Rs. 500.00 Period of completion : 210 Days
Last Time & Date of Submission of Bid 04.10.2019 upto 15:00 Hours
Date of Opening Technical Bid 04.10.2019 after 15:30 Hours
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/>
All the corrigendum (if required) will be uploaded on portal and will not be published in News Paper.
Sd/-
(RAJINER BANSAL)
Executive Engineer/C-7 DUSIB
DIP/Shabdarth/0729/19-20

DELHI URBAN SHELTER IMPROVEMENT BOARD GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, C-12 RANA PRATAP BAGH, DELHI-110007
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Executive Engineer, C-12, DUSIB, R.P. Bagh, Delhi- 110007 invites on behalf of Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, percentage rate bid (On Line) on two bid system for the following work:
NIT No.: 09/EEC-12/DUSIB/2019-20
Name of Work : GIA to DUSIB for existing infrastructure.
Sub-Head : Construction of boundary wall at SRS Holambi Kalan, Phase-II for land earmarked for (1) Police Post Block A (2) Shop Plot Block A (3) ESS Block B (4) Shop Plot Block B (5) RB Block C (6) Dispensary Block C (7) JSC C Block.
Esstt. Cost :- Rs. 28,37,189.00
Earnest Money- Rs. 56,750.00
Tender Cost- Rs. 500.00 Period of completion: 150 Days
Last Time & Date of Submission of Bid : 07.10.2019 upto 15.00 Hours
Date of Opening Technical Bid : 07.10.2019 after 15:30 Hours
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/>
All the corrigendum (if required) will be uploaded on portal and will not be published in News Paper.
Sd/-
(ARUN KUMAR)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, C-12(DUSIB)
DIP/Shabdarth/0731/19-20

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE (through e-tendering)

S. N.	Name of work with its location	App. Cost of the work (in Rs.)	Tender Inviting Officer Address	Tender Document Fee (in Rs.)	Earnest Money to be deposited (in Rs.)
1.	Signalling work in connection with sectional signal maintenance contract in section of ADST/EDS of Delhi Division.	Rs. 97,49,357.27/- only	Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-II, Northern Railway, 2nd Floor, Annex-1, CRM office, New Delhi-110055	Rs. 5,500/- only	Rs. 1,03,000.00/- only

Date & Time for Closing of tender: Tender updated date & time 16.10.2019 up to 15.00 hrs. Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.: See the N.R.W. website www.irps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch 3rd Floor, CRM office, State entry road, New Delhi-110055. Tender No. 538-Sig/16/M/Tender/1300 Dated: 24.09.2019. 2038H19

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
No. AGRA/ELE/OP/TENDER/2018/05/R2 Dated: 20.09.2019
E-TENDER NOTICE
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), North Central Railway, Agra, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tender on prescribed form The details of the tenders are as under:

Tender No.	Name of work	Approximate Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)
AGRA/ELE/OP/TENDER/2018/05/R2	"Loading unloading and transportation of Loco Photos and Assit. Loco Photo the boxes from box room to train & train to box room on various platforms of Agra Cantt. Station & Mathura Jn. Station."	₹ 19,63,460.25	₹ 39,300.00	₹ 2,400.00

Completion Period (in Days):- 225 Days. Date of opening of tender:- 14.10.2019. Notes:- 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders will be available on website www.irps.gov.in up to 15.00 hrs. on 14.10.2019 the due date of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2008. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightaway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 5. This tender notice have also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 6. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Document Cost in respect of e-Tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. 7. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached.
f North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in railway.northcentral@emilive 1352/19(A)

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B. No. 5531, Bengaluru-Pune Highway, Bengaluru - 560 055. Ph: 080-23378715, 23377103 Fax: 23375102, 23370498
e-Mail: ksdl.dgmrmts@gmail.com
Date: 25.09.2019
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tenders are invited by KS&DL in two cover system through e-Procurement Portal (Website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>) with respect to supply of the following Materials/Services.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Qty.	Published Date	Last date for Bid Submission
1	KSDL/2019-20/IND3879	Procurement of 20 TR/Hr. Process Chiller	1 No	11.09.2019	10.10.2019
2	KSDL/2019-20/IND3880	Procurement of Servo System 320 Lubrication Oil	10 Barrel	12.09.2019	11.10.2019
3	KSDL/2019-20/IND3883	Supply and Installation of 5000 liters storage tank of stainless steel 304 grade cylindrical type	2 Nos	25.09.2019	24.10.2019
		Supply and Installation of 10000 liters storage tank of stainless steel 304 grade cylindrical type	2 Nos		

Please visit KS&DL website: <https://www.mysorasandal.org> for further details. For any queries/clarification, contact the undersigned.
Sd/- Asst. Gen. Manager (Materials)

MAGH MELA 2020
Prayagraj Mela Authority
Triveni Bhawan, Triveni Bandh, Daraganj, Prayagraj
+91 532 2500775 / +91 532 2504011, maghmelapmp@gmail.com
Notice Inviting E-Tender-For Selection of Agencies to provide Barricading, Empanelment of Vendors for Procurement of Hutting Materials and Appointment of Agency to Provide Public Address System by Prayagraj Mela Authority
The Prayagraj Mela Authority Invites Bids for Tender No. 08/MM 2019-20 for "Selection of Agencies to Provide Barricading for Magh Mela 2020", Tender No. 09/MM 2019-20 for "Empanelment of Vendors for Procurement of Hutting Materials for Magh Mela 2020" and Tender No. 10/MM 2019-20 for "Appointment of Agency to Provide Analog Centralized and Standalone Public Address Systems for Magh Mela 2020". The Request for Proposal Documents shall be made available from the Uttar Pradesh E-Procurement website <https://etender.up.nic.in> on 26/09/2019. Interested parties may download/upload their proposal from 1700 hrs 26/09/2019 till 1200 hrs 16/10/2019 for Tender No. 08/MM 2019-20, Tender No. 09/MM 2019-20 and Tender No. 10/MM 2019-20 via Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). The bids received by interested parties shall be opened in the presence of the respective bidders/ Creative Directors for Ambiance, Stage Backdrop, Guard Wall etc. at Jabalpur, Sagar and Rewa.
The details of the tender is available on website www.sczcc.gov.in. The tender document can be downloaded from 26/09/2019. The last date for submission of bids is 30/09/2019 up to 12 noon. The cost of blank document is Rs.500/- to be paid by cash (Non-refundable). Enquiry 9822230810, 9834830791
District Magistrate, Prayagraj
/Vice Chairperson,
Prayagraj Mela Authority

UJVN Limited
H.O.: UJJWAL, Mahant Singh, 6883 Road, Ghazipur-202006
Tele/Fax 0125-2763626, 2763606 & Fax: 0125-2763607
CIN No. U40101UP201802SC25868 | www.uttarakhandjvnl.com
Corrigendum-1
Tender Document of Tender No. 13/EEC/MDN/2019-20 invited by Executive Engineer (C.M.), UJVN Limited Dehradun is available on Nigam's website www.ujvn.com instead of www.uktender.gov.in
Other conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.
For further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvn.com
पत्रांक नं. 558 दिनांक 24.09.2019 Executive Engineer (Civil-Maint.)
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE (through e-tendering)

S. N.	Name of work with its location	App. Cost of the work (in Rs.)	Tender Inviting Officer Address	Tender Document Fee (in Rs.)	Earnest Money to be deposited (in Rs.)
1.	Signalling work in connection with sectional signal maintenance contract in section of ADST/EDS of Delhi Division.	Rs. 97,49,357.27/- only	Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-II, Northern Railway, 2nd Floor, Annex-1, CRM office, New Delhi-110055	Rs. 5,500/- only	Rs. 1,03,000.00/- only

Date & Time for Closing of tender: Tender updated date & time 16.10.2019 up to 15.00 hrs. Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.: See the N.R.W. website www.irps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch 3rd Floor, CRM office, State entry road, New Delhi-110055. Tender No. 538-Sig/16/M/Tender/1300 Dated: 24.09.2019. 2038H19

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, ALLAHABAD
No. AGRA/ELE/OP/TENDER/2018/05/R2 Dated: 20.09.2019
E-TENDER NOTICE
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), North Central Railway, Agra, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tender on prescribed form The details of the tenders are as under:

Tender No.	Name of work	Approximate Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)
AGRA/ELE/OP/TENDER/2018/05/R2	"Loading unloading and transportation of Loco Photos and Assit. Loco Photo the boxes from box room to train & train to box room on various platforms of Agra Cantt. Station & Mathura Jn. Station."	₹ 19,63,460.25	₹ 39,300.00	₹ 2,400.00

Completion Period (in Days):- 225 Days. Date of opening of tender:- 14.10.2019. Notes:- 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders will be available on website www.irps.gov.in up to 15.00 hrs. on 14.10.2019 the due date of tender opening. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2008. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightaway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. 5. This tender notice have also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 6. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Document Cost in respect of e-Tendering shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. 7. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached.
f North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in railway.northcentral@emilive 1352/19(A)

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sandal City: P.B. No. 5531, Bengaluru-Pune Highway, Bengaluru - 560 055. Ph: 080-23378715, 23377103 Fax: 23375102, 23370498
e-Mail: ksdl.dgmrmts@gmail.com
Date: 25.09.2019
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tenders are invited by KS&DL in two cover system through e-Procurement Portal (Website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>) with respect to supply of the following Materials/Services.

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Tender Name	Qty.	Published Date	Last date for Bid Submission
1	KSDL/2019-20/IND3879	Procurement of 20 TR/Hr. Process Chiller	1 No	11.09.2019	10.10.2019
2	KSDL/2019-20/IND3880	Procurement of Servo System 320 Lubrication Oil	10 Barrel	12.09.2019	11.10.2019
3	KSDL/2019-20/IND3883	Supply and Installation of 5000 liters storage tank of stainless steel 304 grade cylindrical type	2 Nos	25.09.2019	24.10.2019
		Supply and Installation of 10000 liters storage tank of stainless steel 304 grade cylindrical type	2 Nos		

Please visit KS&DL website: <https://www.mysorasandal.org> for further details. For any queries/clarification, contact the undersigned.
Sd/- Asst. Gen. Manager (Materials)

MAGH MELA 2020
Prayagraj Mela Authority
Triveni Bhawan, Triveni Bandh, Daraganj, Prayagraj
+91 532 2500775 / +91 532 2504011, maghmelapmp@gmail.com
Notice Inviting E-Tender-For Selection of Agencies to provide Barricading, Empanelment of Vendors for Procurement of Hutting Materials and Appointment of Agency to Provide Public Address System by Prayagraj Mela Authority
The Prayagraj Mela Authority Invites Bids for Tender No. 08/MM 2019-20 for "Selection of Agencies to Provide Barricading for Magh Mela 2020", Tender No. 09/MM 2019-20 for "Empanelment of Vendors for Procurement of Hutting Materials for Magh Mela 2020" and Tender No. 10/MM 2019-20 for "Appointment of Agency to Provide Analog Centralized and Standalone Public Address Systems for Magh Mela 2020". The Request for Proposal Documents shall be made available from the Uttar Pradesh E-Procurement website <https://etender.up.nic.in> on 26/09/2019. Interested parties may download/upload their proposal from 1700 hrs 26/09/2019 till 1200 hrs 16/10/2019 for Tender No. 08/MM 2019-20, Tender No. 09/MM 2019-20 and Tender No. 10/MM 2019-20 via Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). The bids received by interested parties shall be opened in the presence of the respective bidders/ Creative Directors for Ambiance, Stage Backdrop, Guard Wall etc. at Jabalpur, Sagar and Rewa.
The details of the tender is available on website www.sczcc.gov.in. The tender document can be downloaded from 26/09/2019. The last date for submission of bids is 30/09/2019 up to 12 noon. The cost of blank document is Rs.500/- to be paid by cash (Non-refundable). Enquiry 9822230810, 9834830791
District Magistrate, Prayagraj
/Vice Chairperson,
Prayagraj Mela Authority

Office of the Executive Engineer
Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Unit, Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam
R-1 Raj Nagar, Near Hint Chouraha, Ghaziabad (U.P.) Pin 201002.
Short Term E-Tender Notice No. 1075/Nivida/65 Dtd. 24-09-2019
E-Tender Notice
Online percentage rate short e-tender for "Repair of Internal surface and joints between Manhole No. 35 to 37 200 cusec for Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Scheme" is hereby invited in single bid system on behalf of M.D., U.P. Jal Nigam from the contractors registered with U.P. Jal Nigam in Class "B" (Civil Works) and having requisite work experience and financial capability. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> latest by 26-09-2019. Interested contractors may view & download tender document and upload their bids, duly filled, online latest by 03-10-2019 up to 01:30 P.M. Technical & Financial Evaluation cum financial Bid of E-tender shall be opened on 03-10-2019 at 03:30 P.M.
Sd/-
Executive Engineer Civil Divn.-XI, (I&FC) Govt. of Delhi
DIP/Shabdarth/0717/19-20

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow as per GSE/IR/2019/10
Details of the Tender Notice of A.C. Relaying can be seen on website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in
Open TN No.: GNT/M/06/Tenders/2019, dated: 23/09/2019
The undersigned invites E-T

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Gaurav S/o Naresh Chand Jain R/O A-3/51-52 Sector-4, Rohini Delh-110085 changed my name to Gaurav Jain.

0040513818-6

I, Christopher Dias S/O Watson Dias R/O-A-802, 8th-floor, Golf-Gardenia, Alpha-2, Greater-Noida, have changed my minor daughter name, from Komal Sainatha to Madeline Dias. 0040513864-5

I, Chetaan Verma S/O Taruna Chauhan W/O Shri Sandeep Kumar Verma R/O House no. 499 Sec 4 Vaishali Ghaziabad UP 201010, I want to change my son name as Chaitanya Verma from Chetaan Verma for all future purposes . 0050155802-1

I, Bhagwati W/o Shri Khajan Singh R/O-97-A, Pocket-A-2, Mayur-Vihar, Phase-III, Delhi-110096 have changed my name to Bhagwati Devi, for all future purposes. 0040513822-7

I, Awadesh Kumar Singh S/o Ram Sakal Singh R/O D-53 Madhu Vihar, Solanki Market, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Awadesh Kumar Singh 0070675875-1

I, Arunav Gupta S/o Sh. Kedar Prasad R/O F-156, 3rd Floor, Gali No.5, Pandav Nagar, Delhi-91 have changed my name from Kanishka/Aniket Kumar to Arunav Gupta for all purposes. 0040513738-1

I, Archana W/O Laxmi Narayan, Residing At, H.No.586, Jatav-Mohalla, Badli, Delhi-110042. Have Changed The Name Of My Archana Aged 40-Years And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Archana. 0040513838-3

I, Anup poddar S/o- Purushottam Poddar R/o-M2K Victoria-Garden, D-401, Model-town Azadpur, Delhi-33, have changed my minor daughter's name, from Riddhima Poddar aged 15-years to Riddhima Poddar, she shall hereafter be known as Riddhima poddar. 0040513845-6

I, Aniykan Kunju K.G. S/O K.K.George, R/O 60-A, G/F A2B Block Ekta Appot. Paschim Vihar, New Delhi, have changed my name to Aniykan Kunju Kizhakkecharuvil George for all future purposes. 0040513791-8

I, Faiz Mehmood Khan S/o Intekhab Mehmood R/o 60-b, First Floor, Central Road, Ghaffar Manzil, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, ND-25 have changed my name to Faiz Mehmood. 0040513791-1

I, Dayal Kour W/o Jagdish Singh R/O-25-C/D-1-B Janakpuri New Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Dayal Kaur for all purposes. 0040513838-9

I, DHRUV S/O INDERVESH DABAS R/O 143, F.F. Sharda Niketan, Pitampura Delhi-110034 have changed my name to DHRUV DABAS. 0040513818-2

I, Yogita Sharma W/o Sh.Sunil Sharma R/O-A-75, Block-A, Hari Nagar Clock Tower, New Delhi-110064 have changed my name to Yamini Sharma for all purposes. 0040513731-4

I certify that I, Mamta Goenka, R/O E-16/362, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085, has changed my name to Mamta Aggarwal, for all future purposes. 0040513741-1

I certify that I, Vinod Kumar Goenka, R/O E-16/362, Sector-8, Rohini, Delhi-110085, has changed my name to Vinod Kumar Aggawal, for all future purposes. 0040513739-1

I, A. Marli S/o Sh.Ammavasali R/O-B-7/37-F, MayurVihar-3, Delhi-96, inform that my daughter's name is wrongly entered in the school record as A.M. Nivedha, the correct name is Nivedha. 0040513818-5

I, charanjeetsingh S/o daleep Singh R/o-Dadaha lalpur sitarganj udham singh nagar Uttarakhand have changed my name to Charan Singh. 0040513864-11

I, Abhishek Goel S/o Naresh Goyal R/O-3/3, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-85, have changed my name to Abhishek Goyal for all purposes. 0040513737-1

I, Anil Kumar S/O Bachan Dass R/O-B-226, Block-6, Mohan-Garden, Uttamnagar, N.Delhi-110059, changed My Name To Anil Goyal. 0040513845-8

I, Suresh Chandra Sharma S/O Pyare Lal Sharma H. No. 1626, Sector- 28, Faridabad, Haryana-121008 inform that in many documents I have wrongly mentioned my name Suresh Chand Sharma but my correct name is Suresh Chandra Sharma for all purposes. 0040513791-3

I, Shivender Rawat S/O Sh. Diwan Singh Rawat R/O 167, DDA Flat, Pocket-6/3, (Sec-1A) Naharpur, Dwarka, New Delhi-110045, have changed my name from Shivender Singh Rawat to Shivender Rawat for all future purposes. 0040513859-1

I, hitherto known as Pintu Kumar Gupta, S/o Sh.Chotey Lal R/O-164-E, Sadbhawana-Apartment, Pokcet-4, Mayur-Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-110091, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Prabhas Gupta, for all means and purposes. 0040513845-5

I, hitherto known as PRAMODHINI, P. D/o Shri P. Narendar, employed as Private Secretary in the O/o The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 9, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, New Delhi, residing at E-205 M.S. Apartments, K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRAMODINI.P. 0040513755-1

I, Vijendr Kumar Jain S/o Ganpat Lal Jain, R/o-Flat-No-213, Society-Flats, Raheja Atlantis, Sector-31 Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have Changed my Name to Vijender Kumar Jain for All Purposes 0040513740-2

I, V. Vasudevan S/O Late Shri S. Venkiteswaran R/O H.No. A-335, First Floor, Chhattarpur Enclave, Phase-2, Maidan Garhi Road, New Delhi-110074, have changed my name from V. Vasudevan Vasudevan Venkiteswaran for all future purposes. 0040513802-1

I, Susheela W/o Sh.Subhash Chandra Pal R/O-B-44, Second-Floor Gali No.8, Shalimar Village, Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110088, have change my name to Susheela Pal. 0040513818-8

I, Susheela W/O Krishan Kumar Yadav R/O-C-104, Gali No.13, B-Block, Badli-Extn., Delhi-42 Have Changed My Name To Sushila Yadav. 0040513822-5

I, Suresh Kumar Nagpal S/o, Banwari Lal Nagpal R/O-847, Rishi-Nagar, Rani Bagh, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Suresh Nagpal permanently. 0040513822-2

I, Suresh Chandra, S/O Dori Lal Gupta, R/O 86A, EWS Janta Flats, Sunshine Apartment, Sector 99, Noida UP 201301, have changed my name to Suresh Chandra Gupta for all purposes 0050155804-1

I, Surender Singh, S/O-Dharampal Dahiya, R/O-RZ-C-1/11, VinodPuri, Vijay-Enclave, ND-45, have changed to my minor Son Kunal to Kunal Singh, for all Purposes (D.O.B.10.04.2005). 0040513838-8

I, Surender Singh, S/O Dharampal Dahiya, R/O-RZ-C-1/11, VinodPuri, Vijay-Enclave, ND-45, have changed to my minor Son Kunal to Kunal Singh, for all Purposes (D.O.B.07.09.2006). 0040513838-7

I, Surajpal Singh S/o Ghure Singh R/O Village-Sarfabad Sector-73 Noida District-Gautam Buddha Nagar have changed my name to Surajpal permanently. 0040513746-1

I, Sunita Kumari W/o Virender Kumar R/O-G-21/32, 3rd-Floor Sector-7 Rohini Delhi-110085 changed my name to Sunita Prajapati. 0040513818-4

I, Suchit Arora S/O Shri.Pritam Singh R/O-3194, Gali.No-232, Chander-Nagar, TriNagar, Delhi-110035, have changed my name, from Suchit to Suchit Arora. 0040513864-4

I, SubhashishNag S/O Chitta Ranjan Nag R/O-C-2 Sec-53 Noida, UP, Declare that the name of mine has been wrongly-mentioned as Subhashish Nag in my Passport No.H8111823 my correct name is Subhashish Nag. 0040513864-1

I, Subhash Chand Pal S/o Sh. Ramesh Mani Pal R/O-B-44, Second-Floor Gali No.8, Shalimar Village, Shalimar-Bagh Delhi-10088, have change my name to Subhash Chandra Pal. 0040513818-7

I, Sourabh S/O Gopal Hotchandani R/O C-6/118 C, Keshav Puram, Delhi-110035. Have Changed My Name To Sourabh Hotchandani. 0040513822-4

I, Amit R/O 218 Pocket-4 Rohini Sector 25 Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Amit Kumar for all purposes. 0040513223-1

I, Priya Kumari W/o-Ankush R/O-Flat No-401, 4th-Floor, PlotNo-G-109A, Azad-Apartment, Joon-Residency, Ashok-Vihar-3 Extn Gurugram-122001 (Haryana) Sworn in an affidavit at Notary Public Have Changed My Name To Priya Tiwari. 0040513838-5

I, Gurbchan Singh Bhagi S/o Shri Charan Singh, R/O-A-422, Jalvayu Vihar, Sector-25, Noida G.G. Nagar (U.P.) have changed my name from Gurbchan Singh Bhagi to Gurbachan Singh. Vide Affidavit-(98AD434963)dt-24/09/2019 0040513781-2

I, Manjeet Singh Padam S/O Late S. Jasmal Singh Padam R/O-B-379, Meera Bagh, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi, have changed the name of my minor son from Eeshaan Padam to Eeshaan Singh Padam for all future purposes. Eeshaan Padam and Eeshaan Singh Padam is one and same person. 0040513730-1

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I, YASH S/O INDERVESH DABAS R/O 143, F.F. Sharda Niketan, Pitampura Delhi-110034 have changed my name to YASH DABAS. 0040513818-3

I, Ravi Shankar Vohra S/O Sai Dass R/O B-177, Third-Floor, Derawal Nagar, Near-Model Town, Delhi-009., Have Changed My Name To Ravi Vohra. 0040513822-6

I, Raj Kamal/Bunty S/O Harjeet Singh R/O-Flat No.62-A/1-, U/G/Floor, Dalip-Vihar, Nilothi-Extn, Nangoli, N.Delhi-110041., changed My Name To Raj Kamal. 0040513845-7

I, Raghvendra Jha S/o Ramanand Jha R/O-RZ-252 Part-2-Kirari Suleman-Nagar Delhi-86, inform that my name Wrongly Written Raghvinder my driving license but correct name Raghvendra Jha. 0040513845-3

I, Priya kumari W/o Ghanshyam R/O H.No.A-44 camp No.4 Jawlupuri Sunder Vihar Delhi-41 inform that my name wrongly written as Pinki in my minor daughter Bhumi birth certificate my actual name is Priya Kumari 0040513856-6

I, Prahlad Singh R/O OAK-601 Gulmohur Residency, Ahinsa Khand-2, Indirapuram Ghaziabad UP have changed my minor daughter's name from Palak to Palak Gahlout. 0040513791-2

I, Poonam Sharma W/o Vijay Sharma R/O-G-39, First Floor, Back-Side, Saket Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Poonam Bhatnagar, Permanently. 0040513856-4

I, Mridul Gupta S/o Rajeev Kumar Gupta R/O-985/797, Church-Lane, Bhogal, Delhi-110014, have changed my name to Mridul Gupta, for all purposes. 0040513856-3

I, Mahinder Singh S/O Shri.Beg Raj Singh, R/O-C-18, Gururam Dass-Nagar, Laxmi-Nagar, Delhi-110092., changed My Name To Mahender Singh. 0040513845-9

I, Madan Saini S/o Chunnil Lal R/O 40B, D.D.A-Flats, Mata-Sundri Road, New Delhi-110002 have changed my name to Madan Saini. 0040513845-2

I, Kapil Taneja R/O-C-277 Prashant Vihar Delhi-110085, changed my minor Daughter's name Chavi Taneja to Chhavi Taneja Permanently. 0040513818-1

I, Kanu Priya W/o Hari Om Puri R/O C-132, Mahendur Enclave, New Delhi-110033 have changed my name to Kannu Priya Puri for all future purposes. 0040513744-1

I, Kailash Patil S/o Raj patil Tiwari R/O-706 Block-C, S.G.M-Nagar NIT Faridabad, have Changed my Name to Kailash patil Tiwari 0040513740-1

I, Jabbar Ahmed Khan S/O Salfatan Bahadur Khan, R/O-M-52, Block-M, Lane No-1, Battia-House, New-Friends Colony, Delhi-110025., changed My Name To Jabbar Ahmed. 0040513845-10

I, Gurucharanjit Singh S/o Mohinder Singh R/O-WZ-399 Sri Nagar Shakurbasti Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Gurcharanjit Singh. 0040513864-7

I, Gandeep Kaur W/o Neeraj Vohra R/O WZ-23, Mukhram Park Extn., Tilak Nagar, N.Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Gagan Vohra after marriage. 0040513822-3

I, Parema & Prarna W/o Sudhir Kumar R/O-E-230, Satar Wali Gali, khanpur Vill., New Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Babita permanently. 0040513740-3

I, Ashish Kumar Makhlja S/o Sanjay Makhlja R/O-13/229, Geeta-Colony, Delhi-110031 have changed my name to Ashish Makhlja. 0040513845-1

I, Sumit Singh S/o Spinder Kumar R/O-2036 Sector-7-D Faridabad Haryana have changed my Name to Sumit Sihag 0040513740-3

I, Sarika D/o Gulshan Kumar R/O-39/1, Ashok-Nagar Tilak-Nagar New-Delhi-110018. Have Change My Name To Sarika Sharma. 0040513822-9

I, Riya Nassa W/o Manish Nassa, R/O 47/1, 1st Floor, Ashok-Nagar, Tilak-Nagar, Delhi-110018, have changed my name from Poonam Kalra to Riya Nassa. 0040513856-7

I, Rinki Attri D/o Sh.Chander Pal R/O 50-L, Police Colony, Model Town-2, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Ananya Attri for all purposes. 0040513731-2

I, Randhir Singh @ Randhir Singh Tanwar S/o Late Sh.Hargianj Singh Tanwar R/O WZ-G-41, Naraina Village, South West Delhi, Delhi-110028 have changed my name to Randhir Singh Tanwar for all purposes. 0040513731-6

I, Pinki Attri D/o Sh.Chander Pal Singh R/O 50-L, Police Colony, Model Town-2, Delhi-110009 have changed my name to Aaradhyia Attri for all purposes. 0040513731-3

I, Neha Malik W/o Rahul Anand R/O 16/5, GF, Kalkaji Delhi-19 have changed my name to Neha Anand. 0040513845-4

I, Chirag S/o Dr.Ravinder Kumar R/O C-33 (29/31), Second Floor, Mall Road, Near International Student Hostel, Delhi University, North Delhi, Delhi-110007 have changed my name to Chirag Ravi Jethli for all purposes. 0040513731-5

I, Neelam Dalal W/O.Ashok Kumar Dalal R/O.B-502, Munirka-Apartment, plot.no.11, sector-9, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075, inform that Neelam Dalal & Neelam both are one and same person. 0040513838-4

I, Mohammad Rais S/O Anwarul Haq R/O 2483, Gali Katra Rajji, Shardhanand Marg, Delhi-6 have changed my Name From Mohd Rais Ul Haque to Mohammad Rais for All Future Purposes. 0040513777-1

I, Manish Manjul Dubey R/O F. No. A11, Galaxy Apartments, Sector-43, Chakarpur (74), Gurgaon/Haryana -122002 Have Changed My Name To Manish Dubey For All Purposes 0070675454-2

I, Lata Ram @ Lata Ram Verma S/O Late Sh.Bhajan Lal Verma R/O RZ26P/61A, Gali No.10, Indira Park, Palam Colony, Palam Village, S.O., South West Delhi, Delhi-110045 have changed my name to Lata Ram Verma for all purposes. 0040513731-1

I, Kartar Singh Arneja S/O Late.Paranand R/O-F-3/24 Second-Floor, Model Town-1, Delhi 110009 Have Changed My Name To Kartar Singh. 0040513856-5

I, Hitherto known as Krishna Dev/O Devi Dayal W/O Jai Dayal Gogia R/O L-205 Agarsen-Apartments 66 I.P.Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Krishna Devi Gogia. 0040513864-10

I, Chandan Kumar Sharma S/O Vishwanath Sharma R/O-D-481, Avantika-Pocket-00, Sector-1,Rohini New Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Chandan Kumar. 0040513838-1

I, Vikas Kumar Tripathi R/O H.No-138, Charthari, Bansli, Siddhrth Nagar-272151 have changed my name to Vikas Kumar for all purposes. 0070675877-1

I, Sumit Banerjee, S/O S.H.Supriyo Banerjee R/O-Room.No-128, Akash Air-Force Officer's Mess Dr.Zakir Hussain marg New-Delhi-110003, Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name Shristi Banerjee To Srishti Banerjee Vide-Affidavit Date-20-09-19. 0040513420-4

I, Mahendra Kumar Bharti S/o Indra Deo Yadav, have Lost Original Property Documents Allotment Letter & Receipts of Plot.No.25 Block-E, Ansal Town Agra-U.P, Finder Contact- 9304724326 0040513729-1

LOST & FOUND

Lost my original demand cum Allotment letter bearing Flatno.138-A, G.F. Pkt-GH-2, Ankur Apartment, Paschim Vihar, New-Delhi-63. Finder contact-Gautam Nindra mob.9868889316. 0040513856-10

I, Mahendra Kumar Bharti S/o Indra Deo Yadav, have Lost Original Property Documents Allotment Letter & Receipts of Plot.No.25 Block-E, Ansal Town Agra-U.P, Finder Contact- 9304724326 0040513729-1

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TELLING NUMBERS

How the fortunes of Indians in rich list changed in 2019

THE TOP 10

Rank	Name	Wealth (Rs crore)	Change	Company
1-	Mukesh Ambani, 62	380,700	3%	Reliance Industries
2-	SP Hinduja, 83 & family	186,500	17%	Hinduja
3▲	Azim Premji, 74	117,100	22%	Wipro
4▼	LN Mittal, 69 & family	107,300	-6%	ArcelorMittal
5*	Gautam Adani, 57 & family	94,500	33%	Adani Ports & SEZ
6-	Uday Kotak, 60	94,100	20%	Kotak Mahindra Bank
7-	Cyrus S Poonawalla, 78	88,800	22%	Serum Institute of India
8▲	Cyrus Pallonji Mistry, 51	76,800	11%	Shapoorji Pallonji
8▲	Shapoor Pallonji Mistry, 54	76,800	11%	Shapoorji Pallonji
10▼	DilipShanghvi, 63	71,500	-20%	Sun Pharmaceutical

▲ Rank increase YoY; ▼ Rank decrease YoY; - No Rank change YoY; * New to Top 5
Source: Hurun Research Institute; IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2019

ON WEDNESDAY, Hurun Report India and IIFL Wealth released the Hurun India Rich List 2019, which has found that the richest Indians saw their average wealth decline by 11 per cent over the last year. “If we exclude the new wealth added this year, the cumulative wealth of the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2019 dropped by Rs 3,72,800 crore,” it states. According to the list, “344 individuals or more than a third of this year’s list witnessed wealth reduction and another 112 failed to meet the cut-off of Rs 1,000 crore — almost half of last year’s list”.

The Harun India Rich List has collected data on 953 individuals across 41 industries this year. The cut-off for inclusion was a minimum wealth of Rs 1,000 crore. This year’s list grew by 15 per cent. In other words, 122 more people were included in that cut-off mark compared to last year. Compared to the 2016 list, the number of entities included is up 181 per cent.

Among the key highlights:

- With a net worth of Rs 94,500 crore, Gautam Adani (57) stormed into the top 5; his wealth increased by 33% or Rs 22,300 crore
- Average wealth of the list is around Rs 5,300 crore and the average age is 60 years
- 29 new billionaires (in US\$ terms) in 2019 - taking the total to 138

Indians; 5 individuals lost the dollar billionaire status

■ 13 Non-Promoter CEOs feature in the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2019, of whom two reside in India

■ Led by Roshni Nadar of HCL, 152 women feature on the list

Mukesh Ambani, 62, head of Reliance Industries, is the richest Indian with a wealth of Rs 3,80,700 crore - that is roughly 2.2 times the historic dividend transferred by India’s central bank - the RBI - to the Union government recently. Or, roughly 2.6 times the revenue foregone by the Union government as it cut corporate income tax rates to their lowest level recently.

While Ambani’s wealth grew by just 3 per cent, the biggest gainer over the past year — in terms of percentage change — was Gautam Adani and family. Their wealth soared by 33 per cent - the highest improvement among the top 10 richest Indians. The other big gainers over the past year were Azim Premji of Wipro, Uday Kotak of Kotak Mahindra Bank and Cyrus Poonawalla of the Serum Institute of India.

Rounding off the top 10 is Dilip Shanghvi of Sun Pharmaceuticals whose wealth declined by 20 per cent. L N Mittal of ArcelorMittal was the other one among the top 10 whose wealth declined.

THIS WORD MEANS

QUANTUM SUPREMACY

A goal of computing. Has Google got there?

ON FRIDAY, the *Financial Times* published from the UK reported that a draft research paper claimed Google researchers have achieved a long-ought-after goal in physics called “quantum supremacy”. The paper had appeared on the NASA website and was then pulled down, but the *FT* had retrieved a copy.

Quantum supremacy refers to a quantum computer solving a problem that cannot be expected of a classical computer in a normal lifetime. This relates to the speed at which a quantum computer performs. According to reports about the vanished draft paper, said to have been written by scientists at Google and the Quantum Artificial Intelligence Lab collaboration that includes NASA researchers, the quantum processor took 200 seconds to perform a calculation that

the world’s fastest supercomputer, Summit, would have taken 10,000 years to accomplish. The draft paper is believed to be an early version of a paper that has been submitted to a scientific journal.

What differentiates a quantum computer from a traditional computer is the way the two store information. The former stores information in the form of bits that can take only two values, zero or one, whereas a quantum computer stores it in the form of quantum bits (qubits) that can take on various combinations of zero and one. The phrase “quantum supremacy” was coined in 2011 by John Preskill, Professor of Theoretical Physics at the California Institute of Technology in a talk he delivered on the benefits of using quantum hardware over traditional computers.

Developments so far

Two years of speculation on possible impeachment, as Department of Justice Special Counsel Robert S Mueller III probed the alleged Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, ended in July with Mueller neither indicting nor exonerating the President. But in August, an intelligence community whistleblower filed a fresh complaint about Trump, which an inspector general of the intelligence community deemed “credible” and “urgent”, and forwarded to the acting Director of National Intelligence, Joseph Maguire.

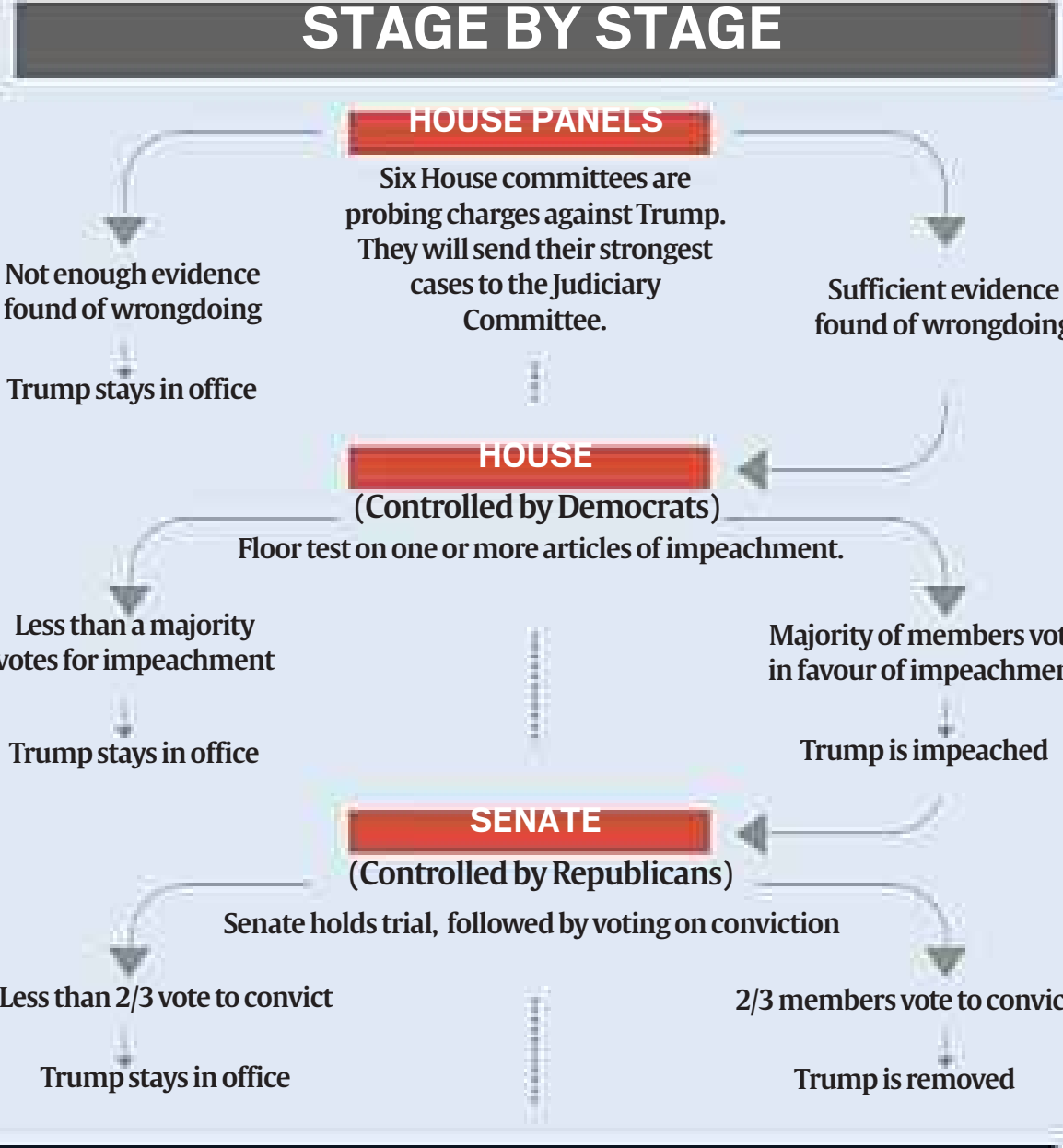
On September 13, House Intelligence Committee chairman Adam Schiff subpoenaed Maguire, accusing him of “improperly” withholding the contents of the whistleblower’s complaint citing “confidential and potentially privileged communications”. Schiff expressed “grave concerns that (Maguire’s) office, together with the Department of Justice and possibly the White House, are engaged in an unlawful effort to protect the President and conceal from the Committee information related to his possible ‘serious or flagrant’ misconduct, abuse of power, or violation of law”.

Over September 18, 19, and 20, reports in *The Post*, *The NYT*, and *The Wall Street Journal* revealed that the whistleblower’s complaint, made on August 12, was about a phone call between Trump and Zelenskyy on July 25, in the course of which Trump had asked the Ukrainian leader “about eight times” to investigate Hunter Biden. Several Democratic lawmakers called for an impeachment inquiry on September 20.

As the scandal escalated, Trump confirmed he had discussed Biden with Zelenskyy in the context of “all the corruption taking place”: “We don’t want... Biden and his son creating [sic] to the corruption already in the Ukraine.” He also said he would release the full transcript of his call



Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, announces the launch of an impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump. *Reuters*



How a US President can be impeached

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

ON TUESDAY, US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that the House would launch an impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump, over his alleged efforts to pressure Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden, Trump’s potential rival in the 2020 elections. How does impeachment take place?

What it means

Impeachment is a provision that allows Congress to remove the President of the United States. Under the US Constitution, the House of Representatives (lower House) has the “the sole power of impeachment” while the Senate (upper House) has “the sole power to try all impeachments”. The Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court has the duty of presiding over impeachment trials in the Senate.

Grounds for impeachment

The President can be removed from office for “treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors”. What constitutes these “high crimes” and “misdemeanors” (misde-

meanours), however, is not clearly spelt out. *The New York Times* explained that the expression “high crimes and misdemeanors” came out of the British common law tradition. “Essentially, it means an abuse of power by a high-level public official. This does not necessarily have to be a violation of an ordinary criminal statute,” *The NYT* said.

Historically, in the US, it has encompassed corruption and other abuses, including trying to obstruct judicial proceedings.

Impeachment history

No US President has ever been removed as a direct result of impeachment. The House did impeach two Presidents — Andrew Johnson (1968) and Bill Clinton (1998) — but the Senate did not convict them. In between, President Richard Nixon (1974) resigned before he could be removed.

The process

HOUSE VOTE: It begins with an investigation by a House committee. In the Nixon and Clinton cases, the House Judiciary Committee held that investigation and recommended articles of impeachment to the full House. In Trump’s case, six committees are investigating him on impeachable offences. If they find that

there is enough evidence of wrongdoing, it will refer the matter to the full House (see *flow chart*).

HOUSE VOTE: When the full House votes, if one or moe of the articles of impeachment gets a majority vote, the President is impeached. Next, the proceedings move to the Senate.

SENATE TRIAL & VOTE: The Senate holds a trial, overseen by the chief justice of the Supreme Court. A team of lawmakers from the House, known as managers, play the role of prosecutors, *The NYT* explained. The President has defence lawyers, and the Senate serves as the jury. If at least two-thirds of the Senators present find the President guilty, he is removed and the Vice President takes over as President.

vestigation of money laundering, tax evasion, and corruption against Zlochevsky and Burisma. The US and the International Monetary Fund accused Shokin of going slow on corruption. In March 2016, Biden went to Kyiv, and threatened President Petro Poroshenko that he would hold back a scheduled \$1 billion US loan if he did not fire Shokin. In 2018, Biden boasted that as a result of his threat, the “son of a bitch... got fired”.

From the spring of 2019, according to multiple US media reports, Trump’s personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani started to pressure the Ukrainians to dig up dirt on Biden from the Burisma episode. The withholding of the military aid, and Trump’s July 25 phone conversation with his Ukrainian counterpart were allegedly part of the same tactics of pressure. Hunter Biden is no longer with Burisma.

Commentators have pointed out that Biden’s actions in 2016 were on behalf of President Obama, and that there was no evidence that he intended his son to benefit in any way. Also, as a commentary in *The Atlantic*

has argued, Biden’s demand for a tougher prosecutor was more likely to increase the pressure on Burisma than to take it off.

What happens now

Based on reports in the US media, it would appear that a large number of Democrats believe that the new accusations represent an open-and-shut case against Trump, much more easy to grasp for the public than the complex nuances of the Mueller report. The President used taxpayer money as a bargaining chip to force a foreign government to go after a personal political rival — this sounds like clear-cut impropriety, in their view. “Right now, we have to strike while the iron is hot,” Pelosi told House Democrats on Tuesday.

Late Wednesday night India time, *The NYT* was reporting that 209 Representatives supported an impeachment inquiry. All except one — an Independent — were Democrats, making up more than two-thirds of the 235-strong House Democrat group. No Republicans were in favour of the impeachment inquiry.

What’s the way forward?

The RBI has appointed J B Bhoria as administrator of PMC Bank; he is expected to take appropriate measures to bring the bank back on the rails. The 14-member board of the bank headed by Waryam Singh has been superseded.

Going by the RBI’s actions on the co-operative banking front, one option is for PMC Bank to be merged with another bank. Between 2004 and 2018, the RBI has merged 72 cooperative banks in Maharashtra alone. Across the country, the number of urban co-operative banks has fallen from 1,926 to 1,551 in the last 15 years.

If the bank is liquidated, which is less likely, depositors will get Rs 1 lakh irrespective of the amount they had deposited. Small depositors need not panic as the bank has Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation cover under which deposits up to Rs 1 lakh are covered. The bank has also claimed it has enough assets to cover the liabilities.

GS

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Why RBI has put restrictions on a cooperative bank, what happens now

GEORGE MATHEW

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 25

ON TUESDAY, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) slapped restrictions on Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank Ltd (PMC Bank), a leading cooperative bank headquartered in Mumbai, appointed an administrator and superseded its board of directors, sending shock waves among thousands of its depositors. Panic-stricken customers rushed to bank’s branches across the state and were unable to withdraw more than Rs 1,000. They had not been aware that the bank, which was under the supervisory glare of the RBI, was being milked by real estate players led by HDIL with the connivance of bank officials.

What is the reach of PMC Bank?

Founded in 1984, PMC Bank was the youngest bank to get the status of a sched-

uled bank in 2000 and a licence of authorised dealer category 1 in the year 2011 for forex business by the RBI. PMC Bank has 137 branches spread across seven states with 81 of these in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane and Palghar regions, 10 in Pune and 12 in the rest of Maharashtra. The bank has several small businesses, housing societies and institutions as its customers. It was popular in the Sikh community as some of the original promoters were from the community-based in Mumbai.

What went wrong?

Going by the Annual Report and Balance Sheet, everything appeared to be hunky-dory. The bank, which has a deposit base of just over Rs 11,000 crore, reported a net profit of Rs 99.69 crore in 2018-19 as against Rs 100.90 crore in 2017-18. The bank showed 3.76 per cent (or Rs 315 crore) of advances (Rs 8,383 crore) as gross nonperforming assets (NPAs) in March 2019, which was a good

performance considering that public sector banks recorded over 10 per cent gross NPAs.

But it turned out that the bank had suppressed the sticky assets and under-reported them; the total bad loans could be between Rs 2,000-2,500 crore. There was no way the bank could have made provisions for such high levels of bad loans. Though the auditor of the bank did not flag the issue in the Annual Report of 2018-19, the RBI became tough in the wake of huge divergence in bad loan reporting.

The bank was funding a clutch of companies, mainly in the troubled real estate sector, led by Housing Development & Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL). Commercial banks have already declared HDIL a defaulter. Rakesh Kumar Wadhawan is the Chairman of HDIL and his son Sarang Wadhawan is the Vice Chairman and MD. PMC Bank’s Managing Director Joy Thomas on Wednesday went on record to say that the bank had given loan to Wadhawan even af-

ter the company (HDIL) defaulted on its loans to other banks and the firm was taken to National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for insolvency proceedings. However, Thomas claimed that the loan was much lower than Rs 2,500 crore quoted in the media.

On August 20, 2019, NCLT admitted an insolvency plea moved by the Bank of India against HDIL in connection with a Rs 522-crore loan default.

What is the Wadhawan connection?

The Wadhawans of HDIL group had close links with PMC Bank for a long time. PMC Bank’s chairman, Waryam Singh, was on the board of HDIL for nine years (2006-15) until he resigned as a director. Incidentally, Kapil Wadhawan, chairman and MD of Dewan Housing Finance Ltd (DHFL), which is also facing a liquidity crunch, is a cousin of Sarang Wadhawan. After the Wadhawan family divided the group business, real estate (HDIL) was managed by Rakesh

Wadhawan while the mortgage business (DHFL) went to his brother, the late Rajesh Wadhawan, father of Kapil Wadhawan.

What has surprised bankers is that HDIL, already a defaulter and taken to NCLT for insolvency, managed to get a pay order worth around Rs 96 crore from PMC Bank for a settlement at the Bank of India. However, Thomas of PMC Bank had claimed this was given with the backing of Wadhawan’s personal guarantee. “Loans given to HDIL and other entities were suppressed despite defaults. The RBI supervision was also lax. They should have flagged these issues long back. I don’t believe their auditors did not know about this,” said Vishwas Utagi, former general secretary of Maharashtra State Bank Employees Federation. Utagi said the RBI was forced to step in after the HDIL was taken to NCLT for insolvency proceedings and it was not in a position to repay the loans and the bank was unable to make provisions.



The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

PEEKABOO, GUESS WHO

SC seeks an end to trolling and lying online. But the cure must not be worse than the disease

THE SUPREME COURT, responding to a plea by Facebook, has expressed serious concern about the electronic Wild West that internet technology has opened up, and directed the government to file an affidavit within three weeks outlining a strategy to get social media platforms to share information with law enforcement without compromising the privacy of citizens. The court had asked why citizens must suffer being trolled and maligned with the impunity conferred by anonymity, and without hope of easy legal remedy. It is a serious question, since clarity concerning guidelines would remove the arbitrariness with which action has been sought and draconian curbs applied. But in a nation that has become pathetically eager to both give and take offence, it is a difficult question concerning the countervailing claims of different rights, and it is particularly vexed by the depressing reality that none of the stakeholders involved have kept their hands clean.

At the risk of seeming contrarian, may we ask why the government, which will now draft the affidavit, permits the rampant misuse and abuse of the law against citizens who speak out online? Even after the offensive Section 66A of the Information Technology Act was struck down as unconstitutional in 2015, the harassment of citizens involved in opinionating, advocacy or discussion has continued, without the government requiring application of mind from the police. Some governments have stooped to using the instrument directly against their own people. Caution is now required, since the imperative of public order and safety is often used to justify innovations that are revealed to be intrusive or coercive. The court may wish to consult its own ruling in *Shreya Singhal vs Union of India*, delivered by Justices J Chelameswar and Rohinton F Nariman: “It is clear that Section 66A arbitrarily, excessively and disproportionately invades the right of free speech and upsets the balance between such right and the reasonable restrictions.” In the judges’ view, Section 66A suffered from the deficit of “vagueness”, encouraging arbitrariness. The guidelines which the government is required to produce may be as arbitrary in practice, because perceptions of right and wrong are socially determined, rather than legally.

The social media platforms which would follow these guidelines have not consistently been ideal guardians of the balance between privacy and accountability. Facebook is still firefighting the Cambridge Analytica scandal and allegations of letting its platform be used to influence the US elections and Brexit. And troll-teeming Twitter is permanently beleaguered by allegations of unresponsiveness to complaints of abuse. The court, which over the years has expanded the contours of free speech, has entered deep waters here, and may finally see fit to rely on existing laws and processes. If applied prudently and morally, they should suffice the purpose.

THE PILLAR STANDS

By asserting the supremacy of parliament, the UK Supreme Court upholds democratic first principles

LAST MONTH, BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson sought to circumvent the first principles of deliberative democracy through a procedural technicality. The PM, by “advising” the titular head of state, Queen Elizabeth, to prorogue (suspend) parliament for five weeks, would have escaped a in-depth debate around the modalities of the Brexit deal Johnson is seeking to put in place before the October 31 deadline. There was also a very real possibility of a disastrous “no deal Brexit”. On Tuesday, the highest court in the United Kingdom ruled unanimously to enforce the supremacy of parliament, and, in doing so, established the resilience of the institutions that form the pillars of democracy during a political crisis that has vitiated the public discourse.

In a sharp and unambiguous 24-page judgment, the 11-member bench highlighted the higher judiciary’s responsibility in defining the limits to the powers of the executive. To do so, it rightly concluded, is not judicial over-reach but rather the essential task of the higher courts in a democracy, which values checks and balances to power. The court also established, rightly, that the legal precedent and conventions that form the bedrock of the UK’s constitutional morality cannot be discarded for the exigencies of partisan politics. By trying to avoid a debate on a contentious and important issue, Johnson undermined the core principle of parliamentary accountability, according to the court. It said: “The Court is bound to conclude, therefore, that the decision to advise Her Majesty to prorogue Parliament was unlawful because it had the effect of frustrating or preventing the ability of Parliament to carry out its constitutional functions without reasonable justification.”

Accountability to parliament, as the judgment notes, “lies at the heart of Westminster democracy”. Since the people of Britain voted by a slender majority to leave the European Union, the country has been mired in a political crisis, with the threat of economic uncertainty looming. Added to that, the prospect of the executive riding rough-shod over the legislature, claiming the backing of the will of the people, would be a challenge to the very idea of parliamentary democracy. The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom has made it clear that it is parliament, collectively, that represents the will of the people, not merely those few members who lead the government. And that the institutions that make democracy a legal and moral endeavour can stand against populism. It is a lesson that has resonance beyond the British Isles.

ALWAYS BIG B

In his 50-year tinsel journey, Amitabh Bachchan has set the mood for Bollywood, remaining larger than life always

THIS YEAR’S DADASAHEB Phalke Award has gone to Hindi cinema’s greatest star. Dilip Kumar was perhaps the better actor, Raj Kapoor the greater showman, Dev Anand more charming and Rajesh Khanna was better at romance. The younger audience may have identified more with the Khans. But for 50 years, Bollywood has not had a shahenshah as charismatic as Amitabh Bachchan.

The thespian did not always have it easy. He made his film debut as a voice narrator in Mrinal Sen’s *Bhuvan Shome* (1969). But in those days, Bachchan’s baritone had few takers. And his tall frame was deemed too awkward for the romantic parts. Bachchan was first noticed in the K A Abbas film *Saat Hindustani* (1969). In his memoirs, Abbas recalls telling “the tall young man... in a way we have no heroine in our film”. One of his early films, *Anand* (1971), got Bachchan a Filmfare award for the Best Supporting Actor. But this Hrishikesh Mukherjee film was all about Rajesh Khanna, the philosopher’s stone for every producer then. This was the time when the Dilip-Raj-Dev trio were on their way out, but still held some sway. And there was jubilee Rajendra Kumar as well. However, these were also times when ideals and morals were put to question. Bollywood needed a hero who was a rebel but introspective, abrasive at times yet with a palpably tender side. Inspector Vijay in Prakash Mehra’s *Zanjeer* (1973) was the prototype of such an “angry young man”.

From *Saat Hindustani*, *Anand* to *Zanjeer*, *Deewar* and *Sholay* to *Hum* and *Shahenshah* to *Black*, *Paa*, *Piku* and *Pink* this century, Bachchan’s tinsel journey, in some ways, encapsulates Bollywood’s changing moods. He defied life-threatening injury, came out of bankruptcy, held his own amidst generations of younger actors and at times, even defied the conventional. But Big B, who came to Bombay after giving up a princely job in a private company, never found the muse to be less than larger than life.



UPENDRA BAXI

THE UNITED KINGDOM Supreme Court, in a slender but significant judgment, decided that the prorogation of parliament by the Queen of England, acting on the advice of the Privy Council, was unlawful on the grounds of parliamentary sovereignty and democratic accountability. It historically held the action was so patently unlawful that “when the Royal Commissioners walked into the House of Lords it was as if they walked in with a blank sheet of paper”. This unanimous judgment of all 11 justices (the twelfth was not empanelled to avoid the casting vote of the chief justice for which apparently the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, makes no provision).

The situation before the Court was pregnant with the politics of power but it, like the Indian counterpart, focussed merely on constitutionality of the prime minister’s action of prorogation of parliament in mid-session. This was truly a *Kesavananda Bharati* moment for the British court. But unlike the full Indian court, there was no riot of concurring and dissenting opinions.

Written in elegant and firm language, and accessible to all, the judgment is very brief (71 paragraphs and 24 pages and heard only for three days). The judicial courage, craft, and contention have a common core in India and UK — judicial review has its basis primarily in safeguarding people’s basic rights but in the Indian context, the end is achieved by a prolifity of judicial opinions addressed to multiple constituencies and the high art of speaking to the future. May be, judicial verbosity emanates in India from the verbosity of the written Constitution itself? Or, each justice values the freedom to write, to concur as well dissent? Or still some are anxious to attain judicial immortality and be remembered by posterity with pride? Perhaps, the ancient Hindu law tradition of *nibandkaras* (essayists) reincarnates law-giving in the form of an erudite discourse. Different judicial styles reveal both the language of power and the power of language — a subject worthy of study by law and sociolinguistics.

The UK Supreme Court has available to it two diametrically opposed readings. The first was the model of judicial self-restraint or ac-



BALRAM BHARGAVA

ON WORLD CONTRACEPTION Day, there is a need to talk about the reproductive health practices and rights of people in India. It is commendable that the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been vocal about the need for a small and healthy family to contribute to India’s socioeconomic growth in the long term. To achieve this vision, there is a need to highlight the importance of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), which are fundamental for family planning and the overall well-being of individuals.

India’s family planning programme dates back to the 1950s and it has made significant progress. The recent emphasis on increasing spacing between children and providing access to the basket of contraceptive choices poses the promise of universal access to reproductive health services. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 4 shows that the use of modern contraceptive methods (mCPR) continues to be around 48 per cent since 2006. In the states which showed mCPR decline, sterilisation contributed to more than 70 per cent of contraceptive use. Further, according to NFHS 4, female sterilisation in India continues to be around 37 per cent since 2006, despite health complications and deaths, highlighting the gender inequality in contraceptive use. This could be because of lack of accessibility or awareness of other contraceptive methods and requires immediate redressal.

India has a vast repository of health and demographic data. But such a repository can also be confusing. For instance, contraceptive



House is sovereign

There are lessons for India in UK apex court order that upholds democratic accountability of parliament

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THE RIGHT COUNT

Sexual & reproductive health data need to be accurate to form effective basis for policy

Researchers have pointed out that data quality gets affected due to factors like interviewer bias, which leads to incorrect data entry. This often occurs while collecting female sterilisation data, which is impacted by over-reporting women as never users and reporting current female non-users as cases of hysterectomy. The level of the bias has been found to be higher in the states that recorded a decline in mCPR, which reflects that the findings were influenced due to errors in data collection.

commodation with other institutions of co-governance; in effect, to treat the questions raised as the pursuit of politics by other means. The second was to check the political executive by insisting on the basic principles of the common law, which protect parliamentary sovereignty. It adopted the latter course saying that although the “United Kingdom does not have a single document entitled ‘The Constitution’, it nevertheless possesses a Constitution, established over the course of our history by common law, statutes, conventions and practice”. Though not codified, “it has developed pragmatically, and remains sufficiently flexible to be capable of further development” and it “includes numerous principles of law, which are enforceable by the courts in the same way as other legal principles”. The principle of judicial duty stands reiterated: “... the courts have the responsibility of upholding the values and principles of our constitution and making them effective: And it is their particular responsibility to determine the legal limits of the powers conferred on each branch of government, and to decide whether any exercise of power has transgressed those limits.” The courts “cannot shirk that responsibility merely on the ground that the question raised is political in tone or context”. The judicial duty then lies in the discovery of the first principles of constitutional law, which regulate the application of constitutional discipline over the uses of political power. I do not think that the Indian Supreme Court’s jurisprudence, and its demosprudential co-governance of the nation, is substantially different in result, though the contexts vary enormously.

However, the British Supreme Court does not confine the sway of such principles merely to the “protection of individual rights”, but includes “principles concerning the conduct of public bodies and the relationships between them”. These principles are “a concomitant of parliamentary sovereignty”. Accordingly, the “power to prorogue cannot be unlimited”. Indeed, no power is, at least in a constitutional democracy.

The Court boldly faces the question: “How, then, is the limit upon the power to prorogue to be defined, so as to make it com-

use data from large-scale surveys show different levels in selected geographies, making planning challenging. These inaccuracies could be due to errors in data collection.

The errors in data collection impact the quality of data, which compromises the survey findings. The quality of these findings is crucial for policy planning to address reproductive health and maternal and child health issues. Researchers have pointed out that data quality gets affected due to factors like interviewer bias, which leads to incorrect data entry. This often occurs while collecting female sterilisation data, which is impacted by over-reporting women as non-users and reporting current female non-users as cases of hysterectomy. The level of the bias has been found to be higher in the states that recorded a decline in mCPR, which reflects that the findings were influenced due to errors in data collection. Also, there is difficulty in distinguishing between methods like sterilisation and hysterectomy for some interviewers, which leads to incorrect reporting. Research shows that state-level decline in the utilisation of mCPR and decline in sterilisation acceptance could lead to a reduction in the use of mCPR.

There is a need to address data quality issues and introduce technological interventions in data collection, training, and capacity-building of survey officials. The role of the National Data Quality Forum (NDQF), a multi-institutional initiative hosted by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) becomes crucial when it comes to addressing the gaps

patible with the principle of parliamentary sovereignty?” It dexterously links the doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty with democratic accountability to people at large: “Ministers are accountable to parliament through such mechanisms as their duty to answer parliamentary questions and to appear before parliamentary committees, and through parliamentary scrutiny of the delegated legislation which ministers make. By these means, the policies of the executive are subjected to consideration by the representatives of the electorate, the executive is required to report, explain and defend its actions, and citizens are protected from the arbitrary exercise of executive power”. And in the present case, judicial duty consists in applying some “legal limits” because a mere executive fiat proroguing parliament runs “the greater ...risk that responsible government may be replaced by unaccountable government ...the antithesis of the democratic model”. It was precisely this fear of limitless executive power that led the apex court in India to prescribe and develop the principle of the basic structure and essential features of the Constitution.

Neither the monarch, nor the prime minister, may insulate themselves from parliamentary sovereignty and democratic accountability. Considerable judicial regard for “the responsibilities and experience of the prime minister” does not overcome the “court’s responsibility to determine whether the prime minister has remained within the legal limits of the power”. The Court will intervene if “the consequences are sufficiently serious”; far from being a mere judicial say-so, it has to rest on the discovery and affirmation of sound basic principles of constitutional good governance.

Of course, no judicial decision is beyond socially responsible critique. But in asking parliament to finally decide the terms and conditions of Brexit, the British court has valuably upheld the principles of democratic accountability of a sovereign parliament.

The writer is professor of law, University of Warwick, and former vice chancellor of Universities of South Gujarat and Delhi

SEPTEMBER 26, 1979, FORTY YEARS AGO

COMPANY DONATIONS PROVISIONS OF SECTION 293-A of the Companies Act banning company donations to political parties have been amended by an ordinance to plug loopholes in it. Under the issued ordinance, contributions — direct or indirect (cash, in kind or by provisions of any service or assistance) — by a company to a political party or for political purposes have been made punishable. According to an official statement by the Department of Company Affairs, receipt of contribution from a company by any member or office-bearer of a political party or by any other person for or on behalf of a political party has also been made an offence under the ordinance.

ONGC STRIKE OFF THE TWO-DAY-OLD STRIKE by workmen and officers of ONGC was called off this morning after an assurance by the deputy prime minister, Y B Chavan, that adequate police protection would be given to those working in Assam. The personnel who had stopped work in the oil fields in Gujarat resumed work today. Workers in the Bombay High offshore project had not joined the strikers. The Bombay High project workmen had threatened to stop crude and allied gas production from 6 a.m today. About 25,000 employees were involved in the ONGC strike which affected the working of the Koyali refinery and two fertiliser plants in Gujarat.

LEFT UNITY EVEN AS THEY are making poll adjustments with the Janata (S)-Congress combination, the Marxists are conscious of the post-election battle that awaits them. That is precisely the reason why the CPM manifesto released in New Delhi today lays accent on consolidation of the Left forces. While explaining the main features of the manifesto to newsmen, B T Ranadive, politburo member, made it clear that continuous struggle will have to be waged even after the election, both inside and outside Parliament. For this to be possible, he said, the Left forces must strive to increase their strength in the Lok Sabha.

You can't shop for teachers

Massive recruitment of teachers in Delhi University and focus on world rankings are myopic moves that are symptomatic of a larger crisis in higher education



SHOBHIT MAHAJAN

THE UNIVERSITY OF Delhi is reportedly set to finish recruitment of more than 5,000 teachers very soon. And no, that astonishing number is not a typographical error. There are about 4,500 vacant positions in the 80 odd colleges under the University and around 850 positions in the faculties of the University. Earlier this year, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, for reasons best known to them, had ordered the University to fill these positions within six months.

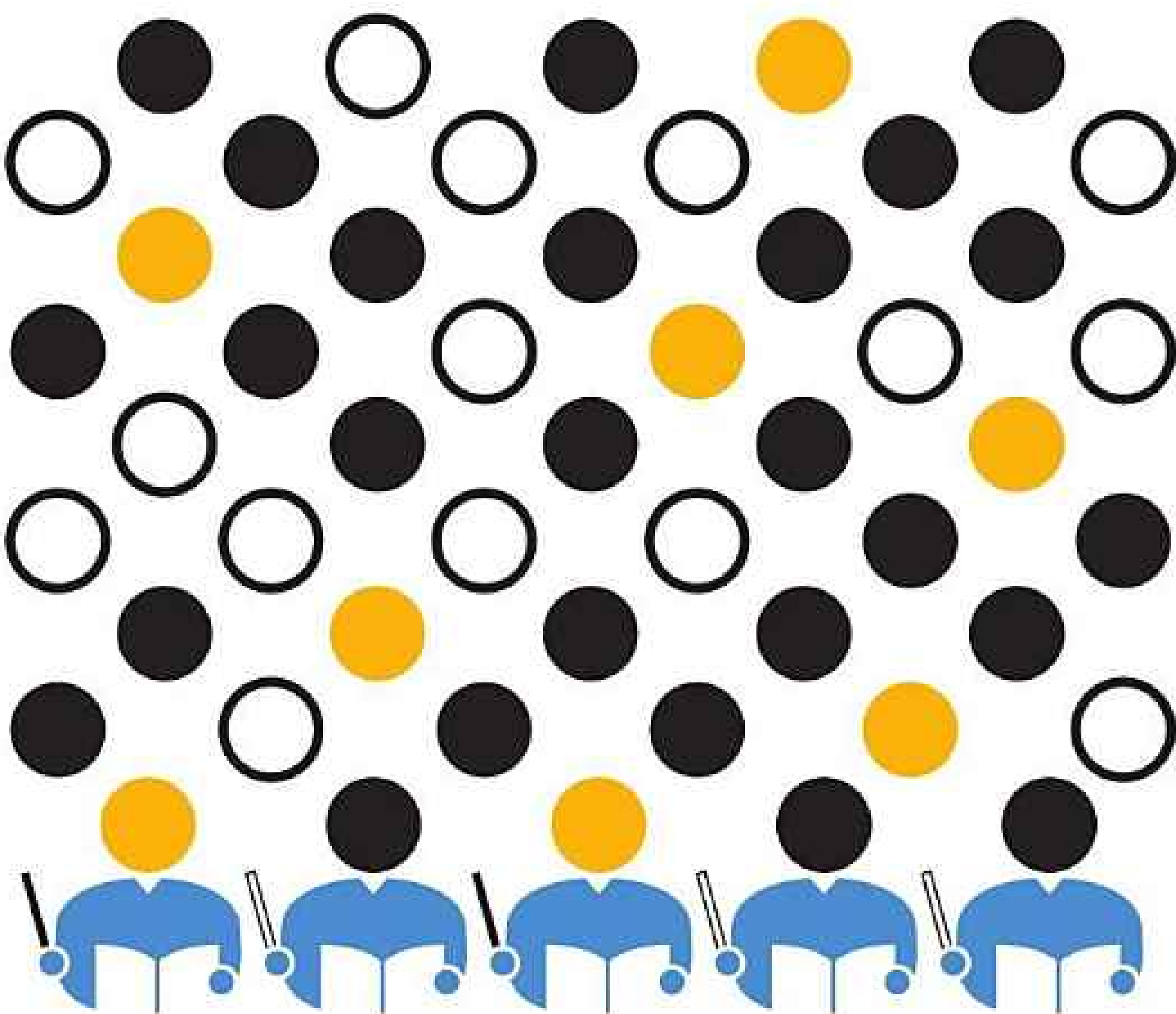
There are several reasons for such an astonishing number of vacancies. First, there have been almost no appointments in the last decade or so for reasons which are not entirely academic. In the interim, many teachers have superannuated and their positions have fallen vacant. In addition, the expansion of the enrolment because of OBC reservation increased the number of positions by almost half. Recently, the EWS reservation has added to this pool. Given that the appointment of such a huge number of people will have a profound effect on the teaching and research environment of the colleges, and the faculties, it is important to delve into several aspects of the current lightning drive to recruit.

The vast majority of positions in the colleges are already being staffed by teachers who are oddly termed as ad-hoc, though they teach as much, and sometimes, more than the regular faculty. These teachers have all the requisite qualifications for a permanent position but are given appointments from semester to semester. And, for some of them, this has been going on for a decade. The devastating psychological toll that this arrangement takes on the teachers can only be imagined. The situation in the faculties of the University is different — here, by and large, there are no ad-hoc appointments.

The critical issue in this whole exercise is the recruitment process itself. The recruitment is decentralised for the colleges and so in principle, one can conceive that such a huge number of appointments would be done concurrently and thereby could take place in a reasonable amount of time. Further, since most vacant positions already have ad-hoc teachers teaching against them, and these have been deemed to be competent (or else, they would not have been reappointed year after year) and qualified, one can imagine that the colleges would be able to fill the positions.

For the university faculties on the other hand, the recruitment is centralised. The process is as follows: The number of candidates to be called for the interview per vacant post is determined by the UGC and a shortlisting of the applicants is done according to an academically suspect formula which is given by, well, the UGC. Whatever happened to university autonomy is another matter. The selection committee which interviews the candidates and selects them, consists of external experts as well as the Vice Chancellor and the Visitor's nominee, apart from the head of the concerned department.

This might seem like a reasonable process ordinarily — but these are hardly ordinary times. Filling up 850 positions involves interviewing around 10,000 candidates at the minimum, as per the UGC



C R Sasikumar

guidelines. Assuming even a perfunctory interview lasting 30 minutes, that means a staggering 5,000 hours of interviews. Since these committee meetings cannot be held concurrently, they would have to work for almost a year without a break! One can only imagine the quality of the candidates chosen by overworked and overburdened selection committees.

This elementary mathematical anomaly aside, which seems to have escaped the MHRD, there is a more serious aspect to this farce: No academic institution worth its name ever goes in for such mass recruitments of its teaching faculty. The reason is simple — it is almost impossible that one would be able to find such large numbers of teachers and researchers of excellence at any given instant of time. In addition, in any discipline, new sub-disciplines might emerge in the future which would need specialists. Academically, it makes a lot more sense to stagger appointments over a long period of time, something which institutions like the IITs and IIMs have been doing. The bureaucrats at the MHRD were, obviously, blissfully unaware of the academic consequences of their dictat before issuing it.

The selection itself is done primarily on the basis of the research capabilities of the applicant without any reference to her/his teaching capabilities or inclinations. Generating new knowledge is obviously an integral and important part of the University's function in society. However, only focusing on research is to take a myopic view — good teachers are essential to motivate and train future researchers, and teachers. Thus, one should factor in the applicant's ability to teach as well.

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Of course, it would be difficult and impractical for a selection committee to gauge such capabilities in a short interview. However, this could easily be done by the concerned departments where the candidates could be asked to host a seminar or teach a class, and their peers could rate them on their teaching skills. This assessment could be shared with the selection committee which could then give it due weightage before selecting. Once again, there is nothing particularly revolutionary about this process — the IITs and IIMs have been doing this for years.

For the past few years, we have been witnessing an almost maniacal obsession with the global university rankings amongst our educational policy-making establishment. Sanctioning money for infrastructure, research and human resources are all for the goal of improving our position in these rankings. Unfortunately, what our policy makers and administrators do not realise is that research and teaching are done by humans. Buildings and laboratories are crucial but they are superfluous in the absence of high quality teachers and researchers. The Tuglaqi firm wants to hire on a massive scale in an impossibly short time period might be fine for some other mass sectors, perhaps. But building world-class academic institutions needs patience, some familiarity with how academia works and a willingness to modify straightjacketed processes. If we ignore these self-evident facts, a majority of our institutions will stagnate at best and decay into oblivion at worst.

The writer is professor of physics and astrophysics, University of Delhi

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Mr Johnson and his team — including his chief adviser Dominic Cummings — have proved utterly ineffective. Just as well when they are trying to rule by decree and suspend democratic government.” — **THE INDEPENDENT**

Imagining a new India

It's a nation where all citizens have an equal shot at pursuit of their own happiness



JANMEJAYA SINHA

INDULGING ONE OF my hobbies of listening to great speeches, I turned the other day to Martin Luther King's immortal “I have a dream” speech, where he talked of the “fierce urgency of now” to address the tribulations suffered by the “negro seared in the flames of withering injustice”. I feel “the tranquillising drug of gradualism” is not good enough to allow Indians a fair chance if we do not address five major crises enveloping India. My own dream for India is one where it has addressed the crises in:

Water: The government has undertaken a multi-faceted mission mode approach that has three parts to it — revitalising rivers and fresh water lakes, harvesting rain water and changing the incentives in agriculture. A nationwide mission has been undertaken to restore our rivers ravaged by widespread encroachment and interference in their natural flows. Measures have been taken to address the colossal scale of sewage polluting the rivers. City sewage systems have been revamped and a big focus has been put on increasing the number and maintenance of sewage treatment plants in every city. At the same time, urgent measures have been taken to ensure rain water is better harvested during the monsoon so that ground water levels are managed up. Indian urban conglomerations that have become like plastic sheets and do not absorb rain water have taken firm steps to address this.

Finally, the plea of Ashok Gulati and others has been heard and agriculture has been freed from misdirected intervention. There has been a stop to the supply of free intermittent power that led to water pumps pulling out and wasting ground water and allowing for perverse cropping patterns to get established. Minimum support prices have been replaced by direct benefit transfers to farmers and the export of water (T N Ninan's evocative phrase for rice and sugar exports from water-starved regions) has stopped. A more sustainable framework for water has led to a palpable increase in ground water and rivers have become cleaner and flow stronger.

Smart cities: One hundred smart cities have come up to absorb the out migration from the rural areas in UP and Bihar. These cities have affordable houses, piped water, power supply and toilets linked to the city sewage systems with well-developed waste sites. The cities minimise travel between residences and work places because work places are in close proximity to residential colonies. All work places have charging stations for electric vehicles and streets are lined with trees and broad walking pavements and cycle lanes. Taxes have been imposed on private car use in city centres to prevent congestion. Public toilets are plentiful as are trash bins so public areas stay clean. Training facilities have been established for training

poorly educated people for low-skill service industries. The population of metros like Mumbai and Delhi are not growing. There are reports of out-migration from large metro aggregations to newer smart cities.

Digital apartheid: All Indians are provided with smartphones and cyber clinics have been funded to encourage ease with a digital environment. Citizen convenience has become a government mantra and most services can be accessed digitally. Services like police verification, getting an election card, obtaining a driving licence, making payments to government can be done remotely and all applications can be submitted through a digital interface. India has also joined the group of cyber-capable nations that can defend the country from cyber attacks and has the capability to inflict damage to other countries in the same way.

Health: All health records in India are digitised and are centrally stored. Privacy laws have been established and patient's records can only be accessed with individual consent. People anywhere in India can call in to centres that deal with common concerns with ease. The primary health centres have all been transformed, digitised and linked to 30 specialist health centres for diagnosis and care. The PHCs are staffed by qualified nurses who engage with specialist's centres by video and advise their patients. Patient visits have reduced and convenience has increased. The district hospitals are not crowded and it is easy to access the specialised hospitals in smart cities.

Education: The government has introduced a school voucher system where municipal schools are run by the private sector. All Indian children are enrolled in school. A strong accreditation council has been set up by government that maintains and publishes school outcomes widely. Parents can use their school vouchers to choose to send their children to schools within five km of their residences. Paid fully, private schools are fully residential and located out of the cities. Teacher training institutes have been set up and all teachers need to spend one week a year learning from each other on teaching methodologies and new course work. The ratio of teachers to students in primary schools has come down from 46 to 25. All schools are equipped with TVs, computers and phones and powered by renewable sources of energy. Digital penetration in education in India has taken off and a variety of models are being used — instructors joining over phone with the material presented via computer, over video conference or just by providing digital access on computers with drop down menus for further inquiry and more advanced learning. Teaching outcomes are better and the productivity of the Indian economy is showing improvement.

Yes, I have a dream that kids will be judged by the “content of their character”, not denied opportunities due to the lack of basic services. I dream that as a nation we have realised that “now is the time to make justice for all of God's children” a reality. Yes, I have a dream that all Indians have an equal shot at pursuit of their own happiness.

The writer is chairman, Boston Consulting Group, India. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HEAR THEM OUT

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Being Greta Thunberg (IE, September 25). The young climate change activist deserves all praise for raising her voice about a serious concern, at a time when governments do not seem to be taking stock of the issue. What worries me is that in India, such voices when raised by young people are increasingly getting suppressed with the tag of “anti-national”

Nikkita Gupta, Tricity

REAL TEST

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘The test ahead’ (IE, September 25). The abrogation of Article 370 was the easier part. The real test starts now. While the Government of India cannot be faulted for all the precautions taken in the run up to annulling Jammu and Kashmir's special status, the prolonged continuation of the clampdown indicates its nervousness. With the identity of Kashmiris at stake, there is bound to be a simmering discontent among the local populace. Has New Delhi bitten more than it can chew?

Kamna Chhabra, Gurugram.

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘The test ahead’ (IE, September 25). The fact of there being no deaths in the Naya Kashmir can be interpreted in two ways: Either Indian security forces have an upper hand or the terrorists have retreated as a part of their larger strategy. The silence in the Valley could be a lull before the storm. The government must, therefore, lift curbs and restrictions which are affecting the daily

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301. Letter writers should mention their postal address and phone number.

THE WINNER RECEIVES SELECT EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS

life of people.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

FOR THEIR FUTURE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘A new approach’ (IE, September 25). To become more aware about climate change, we must dare to ask ourselves, “Are we going to give our future generation a safe planet to live in?” Let's not hurt the prospects of our coming generation. We need honest commitment to avert climate change rather than just paying lip-service.

Neha Yadav, Lucknow



SUBHASHISH BHADRA AND VARAD PANDE

A hundred small steps

Government should restructure PDS to meet goal of ‘one nation, one ration card’

ON INDEPENDENCE DAY this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for national integration through several “one nation” initiatives such as a singular mobility card, tax regime and electricity grid. One such initiative, “One Nation, One Ration Card”, is meant to enable a resident from, say, Darbhanga, to access her food rations in Patna or Mumbai. The Ministry for Food and Public Distribution has commenced pilots between Maharashtra-Gujarat and Andhra-Telangana, and has committed to a national rollout by June 30, 2020.

The Economic Survey 2017 estimated that over nine million Indians change their state every year. For them, the “One Nation, One Ration Card” is a gamechanger because it makes their rations “portable”, allowing them to pick up foodgrains from any ration shop in the country. It also benefits nonmigrants by allowing them to transact at better-performing shops locally. This local “choice effect” is extremely popular in Andhra Pradesh, which has introduced such portability within the state since October 2015. A study by researchers at the Indian School of Business (ISB) found that over 25 per cent of Public Distribution System (PDS) beneficiaries in the state now use portability.

However, we must approach this bold vision with utmost caution because PDS is a crucial lifeline for many of the 800 million Indians it reaches. It provides them with at

least 5 kg of grain per person per month, equivalent to 25 per cent of an individual's recommended calorie intake. Even well-intentioned changes that shock the system can therefore have potentially catastrophic outcomes for some. In 2017, it was reported that a 11-year old Dalit girl named Santoshi Kumari from Jharkhand died when her family was unable to access rations in the aftermath of large-scale revisions in the beneficiary list. Over 18 starvation deaths have been reported in the state since September 2017. Such tragedies must be prevented at all costs and we should therefore be cautious while restructuring the program.

We believe that three considerations are important to keep in mind while thinking about the “One Nation, One Ration Card” initiative. First, fundamental processes related to the PDS need to be redesigned to empower every individual. The State of Aadhaar Survey 2017-18 found that nearly 6.5 per cent of PDS beneficiaries in Rajasthan were denied ration because the shopowner claimed to be out of food grain. This translates to over 3.5 million people in Rajasthan alone. A beneficiary has no mechanism to question whether the shop owner is telling the truth or diverting rations. Portability and biometrics will not solve this problem completely.

Portability in Andhra Pradesh does well because it exists in an environment of accountability of ration shops. The state gov-

ernment collects feedback in real time through a mobile-based system. The central government should use this opportunity to make PDS more user-centric. It should track denial of service on a real-time basis through mobile-based surveys. It should commission research on the experiences of particularly vulnerable groups such as the elderly, migrants, disabled and tribals to modify the process where needed. It should enable beneficiaries to track the amount of food at nearby ration shops using their mobile phones.

Second, the operational backbone of the PDS needs to be restructured to promote portability. States should be brought together on a national platform that is based on the same technical standards and can therefore “speak” to each other (what technologists call “interoperability”), so that portability works seamlessly across states. The system should be based on what technologists call “open APIs” so that states can customise the user interface to their local needs, and add features and additional entitlements as they deem fit. The system should enable real time tracking of inventories and rapid response to low stock situations.

Thirdly, while leveraging the power of Aadhaar for PDS, the government should actively address privacy and exclusion risks that the use of Aadhaar and a centralised PDS platform can lead to. In early 2018, the UIDAI in-

troduced privacy protecting features such as virtual ID and tokenisation. However, few actually use them. The government should enable every section of society to understand and use these features through both online and offline methods. The government should also acknowledge that authentication failures will happen in any biometric system. Studies by ISB in multiple states point to a 1-3 per cent failure rate, potentially affecting 8-24 million people at a national scale. To prevent denial of service, the government should ensure availability of non-biometric means of authentication (such as OTP or PIN), as well as manual overrides.

In conclusion, we suggest that the central government adopt a patient path of “a hundred small steps” while implementing this vision. It should start by encouraging all states to roll out within-state portability. This will also increase their operational and technical capacity. In the meantime, it should work on a national technical platform that works for all states. Such a gradual rollout will prevent transition glitches that show up as harmless statistics in reports, but are a matter of life and death for millions in our country. We owe this to Santoshi, and to many others like her.

The writers work at Omidyar Network India, an investment firm focussed on social impact through equity investments and grants, with an emphasis on technology

TOPOF THE WORLD



NORWAY
Greta Thunberg wins ‘alternative Nobel Prize’

Stockholm: Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg won the Right Livelihood Award, sometimes called the “alternative Nobel Prize”, the jury for the Swedish human rights prize said. Thunberg was honoured “for inspiring and amplifying political demands for urgent climate action reflecting scientific facts,” the Right Livelihood Foundation said in a statement. “Her resolve to not put up with the looming climate disaster has inspired millions of peers to also raise their voices and demand immediate climate action,” it added. Thunberg’s global climate movement began in 2018 when she started sitting alone outside Sweden’s Parliament with a sign reading “school strike for the climate”.

EGYPT
‘Over 1,000 held after protests’

Cairo: Egyptian authorities have arrested more than 1,000 people, two rights groups said Wednesday, in the wake of rare protests last week calling for the ouster of President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. The Egyptian Centre for Freedoms and Rights said 1,003 had been arrested, while the Egyptian Centre for Economic and Social Rights reported the figure of 1,298 detained. Two prominent academics were also detained on Tuesday, a lawyer and a relative said. Hazem Hosny, a Cairo University political science professor, was arrested on Tuesday night in front of his home, his lawyer Tarek al-Awadi said on Facebook.

CHINA
Relatives marry, divorce 23 times

Beijing: Eleven Chinese relatives married and divorced each other 23 times within a month to obtain apartments given out by the state, Chinese media reported. The family came up with the scheme after officials offered 40-square-metre apartments to residents living in an area where homes were demolished. The play started when a man named Pan re-married his ex-wife Shi. They decided to tie the knot again because Shi was registered as a resident of the local village. Six days later, they divorced. Shi had obtained his residency permit. Cousins, brothers and sisters got into the act for a total of 23 weddings and divorces.

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BEGINS INQUIRY

Impeachment cloud: Call shows Trump told Ukraine to probe rival Biden, his son

Trump slams impeachment move as witch hunt; House Speaker says Trump behaviour undermines integrity of US polls

ANDY SULLIVAN & PATRICIA ZENGERLE
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 25

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump pressed Ukraine’s President to investigate a political rival, former vice president Joe Biden, in coordination with the US attorney general and his personal lawyer, according to a summary of an explosive July phone call released by the Trump administration on Wednesday.

Setting up a dramatic political showdown that threatens Trump’s presidency, House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Tuesday said the Democratic-led chamber was launching an official impeachment inquiry and directed six committees to proceed with investigations of the President’s actions.

Democrats have accused Trump, a Republican who is seeking re-election next year, of soliciting Ukraine’s help to smear Biden, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, before the 2020 election.

The half-hour July 25 call between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy occurred after Trump had ordered the US government to freeze nearly \$400 million in American aid to Ukraine. The administration only later released the aid.

According to the administration’s summary, Trump told Zelenskyy that Attorney General William Barr, the top US law enforcement official, and Rudy



“The President has tried to make lawlessness a virtue in America and now is exporting it abroad. It is not part of his job to use taxpayer money to shake down other countries for the benefit of his campaign.”

— NANCY PELOSI
US HOUSE SPEAKER

Giuliani would speak to him about re-opening a Ukrainian investigation into a Ukrainian gas company for which Biden’s son Hunter had served as director.

“The other thing, there’s a lot of talk about Biden’s son, that Biden stopped the prosecution and a lot of people want to find out about that, so whatever you can do with the Attorney General would be great,” Trump said, referring to Barr.

In the summary, Trump never explicitly tells the Ukrainian president that the US aid is contingent upon him investigating Biden, but Trump emphasizes the importance of American financial support before pressing him for action on Biden.

Key moments in Trump-Zelenskyy phone call

TRUMP ASKS FOR PROBE INTO BIDENS

“There’s a lot of talk about Biden’s son, that Biden stopped the prosecution (in a case regarding a Ukrainian energy company that Biden’s son was on the board of in 2015) and a lot of people want to find out about that so whatever you can do with the Attorney General would be great. Biden went around bragging that he stopped the prosecution so if you can look into it ... It sounds horrible to me.”

HE REFERS TO US AID TO UKRAINE

“I will say that we do a lot for Ukraine. We spend a lot of effort and a lot of time... the United States has been very, very good to Ukraine. I wouldn’t say that it’s reciprocal, necessarily, because things are happening that are not good.”

Trump never actually asked Barr to contact Ukraine, Justice Department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec said, and Barr has not communicated with Ukraine about a possible investigation or any other subject. Barr, a Trump appointee, first found out about the conversation several weeks



The White House released a reconstruction of the July 25 phone call between Trump and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine. *AP*



TRUMP SAYS HIS A-G WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH ZELENSKIY

“I would like you to do us a favour though because our country has been through a lot and Ukraine knows a lot about it. I would like you to find out what happened with this whole situation in Ukraine, they say CrowdStrike... The server, they say Ukraine has it... I would like to have the Attorney General call you or your people and I would like

you to get to the bottom of it.” (Here, Trump appears to be referencing a theory pushed by his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, that Ukraine had some involvement in emails stolen from Democratic National Committee.)

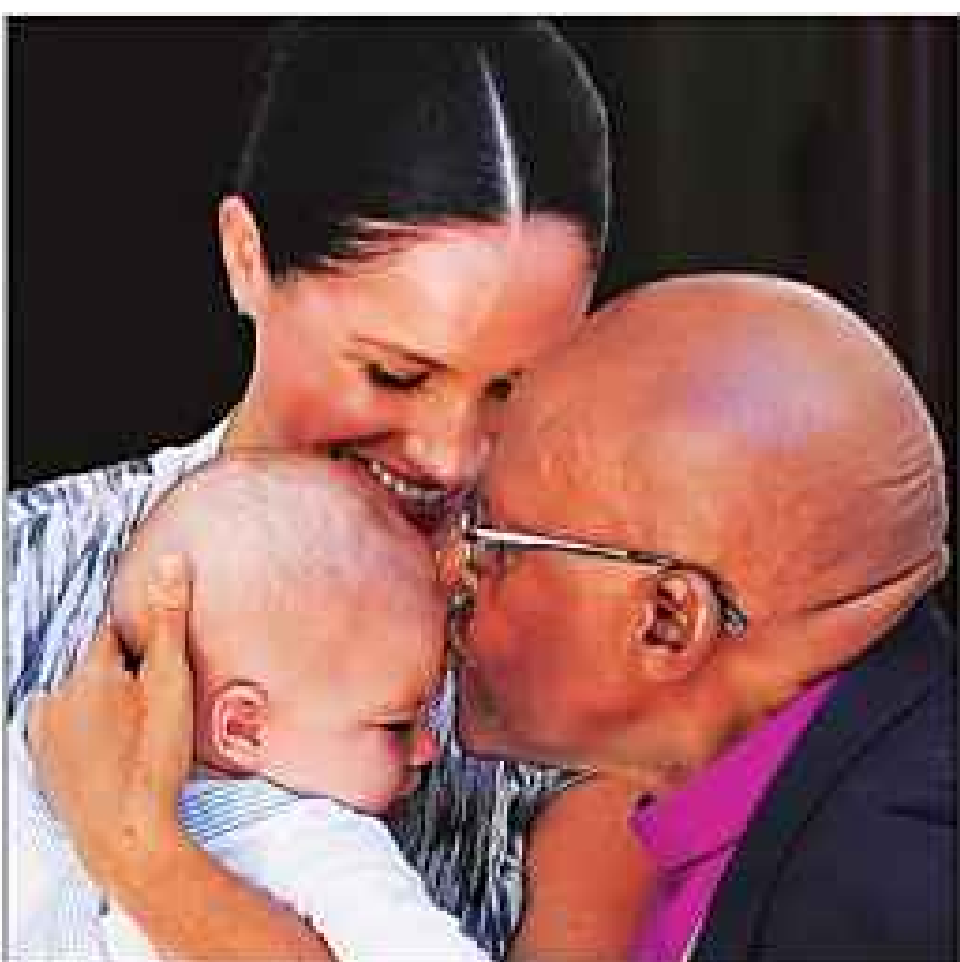
GIULIANI PORTRAYED AS AN ENVOY

“Giuliani is a highly respected man. He was the mayor of New York City, a great mayor, and I would

like him to call you. I will ask him to call you along with the Attorney General. Rudy very much knows what’s happening and he is a very capable guy... The former ambassador from the United States, the woman, was bad news.” (Here the President is pushing Zelenskyy to deal directly with Giuliani, his personal lawyer and close ally, while disparaging the US Senate-confirmed ambassador.)

efit of his campaign,” Pelosi said.

Trump has defended his actions in the Ukraine matter as appropriate and said he exerted no pressure on Kiev involving US aid. Trump denounced the impeachment move on Wednesday as “the single greatest witch hunt in American history.” *REUTERS*



ARCHIE MEETS ARCHBISHOP
Britain’s Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, and her son Archie meet Archbishop Desmond Tutu in Cape Town on Wednesday. *Reuters*

ELIZABETH PIPER & WILLIAM JAMES
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 25

A DEFIANT Boris Johnson faces Parliament on Wednesday after a Supreme Court ruling that he had unlawfully shut it down, with opponents seeking new ways to block him from taking Britain out of the European Union on Oct. 31 without a deal.

After three years of Brexit crisis and Johnson’s tumultuous two-month premiership, it remains unclear when, if or on what terms the United Kingdom will leave the bloc it joined in 1973.

Having lost his majority and a series of votes about Brexit in the House of Commons, Johnson had suspended the legislature for five weeks. But the country’s



Having lost his majority and a series of votes about Brexit in the House of Commons, Johnson had suspended the legislature for five weeks. *Reuters*

top court said on Tuesday he had done so without justification and that the closure was void.

Cutting short a visit to New York, Johnson arrived back in London on Wednesday morning

and was due to address a reconvened Commons after flatly rejecting calls to resign and insisting that Brexit would take place on Oct. 31 come what may.

In the House of Commons,

EXPLAINED What next for Parliament? Blocking no-deal

THE UK Parliament already passed a Bill that makes Johnson legally obligated to ask the EU for a Brexit delay if he doesn’t get a withdrawal agreement by October 31, the day the UK is scheduled to leave the EU. However, ministers have repeatedly refused to answer questions on whether there are loopholes that they could use to not comply with the legislation. Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn met other Opposition figures on Tuesday to work out how they can make sure a no-deal Brexit does not happen. Reconvened Parliament is likely to focus most urgently on this.

newly-turned MPs focused their ire on Attorney General Geoffrey Cox, who was forced to concede that he may have to make further disclosures about his advice that the suspension

was legal. “I am bound by the long-standing convention that the views of the law officers are not disclosed outside the government without their consent,” Cox said. *REUTERS*

2 mn children out of school in Yemen: UN Israel arrests Palestinian minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SANAA, SEPTEMBER 25

TWO MILLION children are out of school in war-torn Yemen, a fourth of whom have dropped out since the conflict escalated in March 2015, the UN children’s agency said Wednesday.

The education of a further 3.7 million children is at risk as teach-



The education of a further 3.7 million children is at risk, says UNICEF. *Reuters*

ers’ salaries have not been paid in more than two years, UNICEF said.

“Violence, displacement and attacks on schools are preventing many children from accessing school,” said Sara Beysolow Nyanti, UNICEF representative in Yemen.

One in five schools in the country can no longer be used as a result of the conflict, the UN agency says. “Children out of school face increased risks of all forms of ex-

ploitation including being forced to join the fighting, child labour and early marriage,” Nyanti said.

“They lose the opportunity to develop and grow in a caring and stimulating environment, ultimately becoming trapped in a life of poverty and hardship.”

Tens of thousands of people have been killed since Saudi Arabia and its allies intervened in Yemen in March 2015.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM, SEPTEMBER 25

ISRAELI POLICE say they have arrested the Palestinian minister of Jerusalem affairs for conducting political activity in east Jerusalem.

Fadi al-Hadami is charged with allegedly breaking a law prohibiting political activity in Jerusalem by the Palestinian

Minister charged under law banning political activity in Jerusalem by Palestinian Authority

Authority, which is based in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfield said al-Hadami was de-

tained early Wednesday. The PA-appointed governor of Jerusalem, Adnan Gheit, is also being sought for the same offense.

Palestinian official Adnan Hussein countered that the arrest was meant to stop “social and cultural activities.” Al-Hadami was last arrested on similar grounds in June. The PA appoints officials for east Jerusalem, captured by Israel in 1967 and later annexed.

SANDRA MULLER HAD ACCUSED A FORMER TV EXECUTIVE OF MAKING HUMILIATING ADVANCES TO HER

Journalist behind France’s #MeToo movement loses defamation case

AURELIEN BREEDEN
PARIS, SEPTEMBER 25

A COURT in Paris found on Wednesday that the journalist who had started France’s equivalent of the #MeToo campaign against sexual harassment defamed a former television executive she had accused of making salacious and humiliating advances to her.

The court ordered the journalist, Sandra Muller, who is based in New York, to pay 15,000 euros, or about \$16,500, in dam-

ages to Eric Brion, a media consultant and former executive at the public broadcaster France Télévisions and the horse-racing channel Equidia. She was also ordered to pay €5,000, about \$5,500, to cover his legal fees, and remove Twitter posts mentioning Brion.

“She surpassed the acceptable limits of freedom of expression, as her comments descended into a personal attack,” the court said in its ruling.

Muller started #BalanceTonPorc, or #ExposeYourPig, in 2017 with a

series of Twitter posts recounting her experiences with Brion. She said that during a social event at a television festival in Cannes, on the French Riviera, Brion told her: “You have big breasts. You are my type of woman. I will make you orgasm all night.”

In her posts, she also encouraged women to speak out against sexual harassment, and tens of thousands of them adopted the #BalanceTonPorc hashtag, spurring a wider discussion on gender relations and sexual norms in France. Unlike many of the other women who



came forward, however, Muller named the man she was accusing of harassment.

Months after Muller’s

French journalist Sandra Muller with her lawyer. *AP*

Twitter posts, Brion sued for defamation. He never denied making inappropriate and crude comments, but said that Muller

had been wrong to characterize them as sexual harassment and to tie his case to that of Harvey Weinstein, the Hollywood mogul accused by multiple women of decades of abuse, including rape.

Brion argued that his comments had been made once and under the influence of alcohol, and added that he had apologised soon afterward. He also stressed that although he knew Muller professionally — she works for an online news site that covers the media — they did not work together.

The court in Paris agreed with Brion, ruling that Muller lacked a sufficient “factual basis” to accuse him of sexual harassment and that she had failed to show “caution” in her posts on Twitter, using the term “pig,” tying Brion to Weinstein and exposing him to “social reprobaton.”

Muller called the verdict “disappointing” and “incomprehensible.” She and her lawyer said they would appeal, which temporarily suspends the fines and other court orders.

“This ruling takes nothing away from the fact that women

are now speaking freely, that you need to continue to speak, that you need to continue to report reprehensible acts, whatever they are,” Muller said at a news conference held at her lawyer’s office in Paris. “I will continue to fight on these issues every day.”

In 2017, *Time* magazine named Muller as one of the “silence breakers,” the women who had come forward to accuse powerful men of sexual harassment and assault, in choosing them collectively as Person of the Year. *NYT*

17ECONOMY

SENSEX: 38,593.52 ▼ 503.62 **NIFTY:** 11,440.20 ▼ 148.00 **NIKKEI:** 22,020.15 ▼ 78.69 **HANG SENG:** 25,945.35 ▼ 335.65 **FTSE:** 7,234.70 ▼ 56.73 **DAX:** 12,169.25 ▲ 137.90

"Till 12:30 AM IST

SECTOR WATCH PHARMACEUTICAL

GSK recalls Zinetac amid concerns over cancer-causing contaminants

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

PHARMACEUTICAL FIRM GSK on Wednesday said it was voluntarily recalling several batches of its popular acidity medicine ‘Zinetac’ as a “precautionary” measure while regulators around the world investigated the drug, known as ranitidine, for potential cancer-causing contaminants. This includes recalls of batches of its brand from the Indian market, the firm said.

Ranitidine, a medicine that decreases stomach acid production, had a market size of Rs 688.6 crore in India and Zinetac was the second largest brand in this segment as of August 2019, according to AIOCD Awacs PharmaTrac.

Other popular ranitidine brands sold here include Aciloc by Cadila Pharmaceuticals, Rantac and Rantac-OD by JB Chemicals, Zyclus Cadila’s R-Loc and Torrent Pharmaceuticals’ Ranitin. It is unclear whether the other firms are considering similar measures. GSK’s announcement comes on the heels of a letter by India’s apex drug regulator, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI), to state regulators asking them to direct manufacturers of ranitidine’s active ingredients to “verify their products” and “take appropriate measures”.

The issue was first flagged earlier this month by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), which stated in a release on September 13 that some ranitidine medicines contained “low levels” of an environmental contaminant known as ‘NDMA’. This contaminant, found in water and foods, is the same impurity the US regulator was investigating in blood pressure drugs valsartan and losartan last year.

While the US FDA had called for recalls of batches of valsartan and losartan due to “unacceptable” levels of NDMA, it has not raised a similar alarm over the NDMA content in ranitidine, which it is still investigating. Yet, GSK and Dr Reddy’s Laboratories have announced voluntary suspension of sales of their ranitidine brand and active pharmaceutical ingredient, respectively.

This is a precaution as investigations into whether the contamination is harmful for patients are still ongoing. In

US FDA in a release on Sept 13 said that some ranitidine medicines contained “low levels” of environmental contaminant ‘NDMA’

the US this week, Sandoz voluntarily recalled “all quantities and lots” of its ranitidine capsules because of “confirmed contamination” with NDMA “above levels established by the FDA” in the product.

“Based on the information received and correspondence with regulatory authorities GSK made the decision to suspend the release, distribution and supply of all dose forms of ranitidine hydrochloride products to all markets, including India, as a precautionary action pending the outcome of ongoing tests and investigations,” stated a GSK spokesperson.

GSK’s Zinetac is manufactured using APIs by two Hyderabad-headquartered firms — Saraca Laboratories Ltd and SMS Lifesciences India Ltd. An API is the key ingredient that gives a medicine its therapeutic effect.

“Subsequently, Saraca Laboratories Ltd were notified by the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines that its certificate of suitability for ranitidine hydrochloride has been suspended with immediate effect,” stated GSK. “Based on the information provided above and as a precautionary action, GSK has made the decision to initiate a voluntary recall (pharmacy/retail level recall) of Zinetac Tablets 150 mg and 300 mg products manufactured in India using API sourced from Saraca Laboratories Ltd,” the spokesperson said, adding that Zinetac manufactured using API from SMS “will not be recalled from the market at this point of time.”

At the same, GSK plans to keep “all such products” on hold, which means they will not be released to the market while the company awaits the test results. “GSK is continuing with investigations into the potential source of the NDMA. These investigations include continued engagement with our API suppliers. Patient safety remains our utmost priority and we are taking this issue very seriously.”

TOP FIVE RANITIDINE BRANDS IN INDIA

Brand	Company	Market Size (in Rs cr*)
Aciloc	Cadila Pharmaceuticals	244.70
Zinetac	GSK	209.10
Rantac	JB Chemicals	153.10
R-Loc	Zyclus Cadila	28.40
Ranitin	Torrent Pharmaceuticals	12.40

*Moving Annual Turnover for the 12 months ended August 2019
Source: AIOCD Awacs PharmaTrac

503.62-POINT FALL AFTER RECENT RECORD RUN

Sensex drops on profit-booking, global concerns; banks, auto tank

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 25

AFTER THE 2,900-point record-breaking rally since September 20, the BSE Sensex on Wednesday plunged 504 points as investors booked profits even as global equities took a hit over geopolitical uncertainties and growth concerns. The 30-share Sensex, which plummeted 586 points during the day, ended 503.62 points, or 1.29 per cent, lower at 38,593.52. The broader NSE Nifty plunged 148 points, or 1.28 per cent, to 11,440.20.

Investors who made decent gains after the surprise reduction in corporate tax on Friday, were eager to book profit after the recent rally, leading to heavy selling pressure in bank, finance and auto counters. “Investors had lapped up many stocks which will benefit from the corporate tax cut. Short sellers had also covered their positions,” said a dealer.

On the other, global markets wobbled after top US Democrat Nancy Pelosi announced opening of a formal impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump. This has ratcheted up political uncertainties at a time when equities are already bearing the brunt of Middle East

EXPLAINED Markets now eyeing rate cut by Reserve Bank in October

THE MARKET is in a profit-booking mode after the big rally in the wake of the cut in corporate tax last week. Moreover, the move to impeach US President Donald Trump and the US-China trade war also added to the selling pressure. Investors are awaiting the RBI decision in the forthcoming monetary policy and the impact of the corporate tax cut on corporates.

tensions and weak global growth signals, analysts said. Further, Trump put China on notice at the United Nations, declaring that the time of trade “abuses” by Beijing was “over” and calling on the country to protect Hong Kong’s “democratic ways of life”.

Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services, said, “political uproar in the US to impeach president Trump led to selloff in global market... this seems to be a short-term reaction. Fresh NPA issues, weak September auto sales and monthly expiry prompted investors to book profit post the sharp upside since the last Friday. Bond yields are inching

higher anticipating fiscal tightness, while government is planning higher divestment to ease the situation.”

Moreover, ADB sharply cut India’s growth forecast to 6.5 per cent for 2019-20 from 7.2 per cent estimated earlier, though it indicated that the country would grow faster than China.

Ajit Mishra, vice president, research, Religare Broking, “we remain cautious on the markets as it is hovering around its peak levels and some consolidation can be expected in the near term. From medium to long-term perspective, the outcome of the RBI monetary policy and revival in corporate earnings

‘Ongoing global uncertainties dampen Aug M&A activity’

Corporate India’s merger and acquisition activity moderated in August with 23 deals worth \$845 million, the second lowest monthly deal volume to date amid ongoing global uncertainties, according to Grant Thornton’s monthly M&A Dealtracker

36% decline in terms of number of deals and 49% fall in value terms in August 2019 due to the prevailing economic uncertainties

36 deals worth \$1,660 million in August 2018

August 2019 witnessed only one deal valued over \$500

million and one deal valued over \$100 million

Domestic transactions were primarily themed around acquisition of stressed assets to strengthen market leadership position, divestment consequent to global transaction, compliance with competition commission requirements in India and investments in technology products to improve market offerings and efficiency

287 transactions worth \$22,855 million registered in the first eight months of this year, while in the corresponding period of the

last year there were 318 deals worth \$75,408 million

The largest deal during August was seen in the energy and natural resources sector, with the Adani-GMR deal valued at \$512 million, followed by Air Water’s acquisition of Linde India in the manufacturing sector

Contrary to the previous month, August was dominated by deals in the IT and ITeS sector, pushed by consolidation in the software development and IT solutions segment. The start-up sector remained active after the IT sector with five deals worth \$25 million

REVIVING DEMAND

Maruti Suzuki cuts prices of select models by ₹5K

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

MARUTI SUZUKI India on Wednesday reduced the prices of select models by Rs 5,000 (on ex-showroom prices). These models include all variants of Alto 800, Alto K10, Swift Diesel, Celerio, Baleno Diesel, Ignis, Dzire Diesel, Tour S Diesel, Vitara Brezza and S-Cross, MSI said in a statement.

These models are priced in the range of Rs 2.93 lakh and Rs 11.49 lakh. The new prices will be applicable from Wednesday across the country.

Analysts believe that manufacturers need to give higher discounts, as the demand is weak in the first phase of the festive season

This reduction of price will be over and above the current promotional offers for the company’s vehicle range, it added.

The company said it is optimistic that the price reduction will bring down the cost of acquisition, especially for the entry-level customers. “This announcement around the festive season will help boost customer sentiment and revive the market to create de-

mand,” MSI said.

The company’s price reduction comes days after the government cut corporate tax last week with an aim to help industry overcome slowdown.

Analysts believe that manufacturers need to give higher discounts to bring the inventory under control, which is still higher than normal, as the demand is weak in the first phase of the fes-

tive season. “OEMs will have to discount aggressively and reduce dispatches to bring inventory under control, with implications for H2FY20 earnings. OEMs could choose to pass the corporate tax cut benefit to customers, but this would imply only a 1-2 per cent additional discount,” analysts at Jefferies noted.

While it is expected that other manufacturers will also cut prices marginally to pent up demand and remain competitive, Hyundai Motor India, Tata Motors and Toyota denied any such move immediately, saying price cuts are not on the cards, so far. **FE&PTI**

FE BEST BANKS AWARDS

Winners who took challenges in their stride



SHOBHANA SUBRAMANIAN
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 25

EVEN WHEN it seems like things are not going well, there are those players who take the challenges in their stride and forge ahead. This was true for the banking in-

dustry in 2017-18, a particularly tough time.

The FE Best Banks jury found there were some outstanding performances which deserved recognition. HDFC Bank’s impeccable financials and strong growth across all metrics ensured it walked away with the honours in the private sector bank category. Indian Bank’s reasonably good financials as also the strategy of focusing on deposit growth while diversifying its loan portfolio won it the award in the PSU bank category. HSBC was adjudged the winner among foreign lenders for turning in a good performance across areas. Equitas Small Finance Bank was at the top of the jury’s list of SFBs with the lender having leveraged its branch network to build a diversified loan portfolio. With its stellar performance across virtually all metrics -



loan growth, profitability and balance sheet quality - Bajaj Finance was the undisputed winner in the NBFC category. This was the second time the company bagged the top award in the segment.

CreditAccess Grameen was picked as the runner-up for its sound financials — capital adequacy and leverage. State Bank of India walked away with the award for the best home loan product — long tenors, the lowest rate and

DAY AFTER CURBS ON PMC BANK

RBI, govt refute rumours on bank closures

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 25

REFUTING RUMOURS going around in the social media about the closure of some public sector banks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the government on Wednesday said no commercial banks are going to be shut and the reports “are false”.

“Reports appearing in some sections of social media about the RBI closing down certain commercial banks are false,” the RBI said in a Twitter message on Wednesday.

Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar said such rumours are “mischievous” in nature as there is no question of closing public sector banks, on which people have a lot of faith. He pointed out that the government is instead strengthening state-run banks with reforms in capital infusion. “There are mischievous rumours on Social Media (picture below) about @RBI closing some banks. No question of closing any #PSB, which are articles of faith. Rather Govt is strengthening PSBs with reforms and infusion of capital to better serve its customers,” he tweeted.

The RBI and the government swiftly rebutted the rumours a day after the regulator imposed restrictions on Punjab and

Maharashtra Co-operative Bank.

Earlier in the day, the social media was flooded with rumours of bank closures. “Nine banks will be closed permanently by Reserve Bank of India. If anybody having transactions in it please withdraw it. The names of the banks are Corporation Bank, UCO Bank, IDBI, Bank of Maharashtra, Andhra Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Central Bank of India, Dena Bank and United Bank of India. 9 banks going to be close if u guys have any account in this banks so please immediately safe ur cash and forward this msg to all. Order by Supreme Court (Sic),” reads the fake message.

However, most of the banks named in the message are those that have been either merged with other banks or are in the process of being merged. Last month, the government had announced that 10 public sector banks would be merged into four bigger banks. The RBI had on Tuesday slapped restrictions on PMC Bank, a co-operative bank headquartered in Mumbai, for various irregularities. The RBI has appointed JB Bhoria as administrator of PMC Bank who is expected to take appropriate measures to bring the bank back on the rails. The 14-member board of the bank headed by Waryam Singh has been superseded.

Govt reconstitutes Economic Advisory Council to the PM

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

THE GOVERNMENT Wednesday reconstituted the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) under existing Chairman Bibek Debroy, for a period of two years.

While Ashima Goel of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research continues to be one of the two part-time members, Sajid Chinoy, Chief India economist at J.P. Morgan, has been brought in as the new member in the Council. Ratan P Watal will continue as Member Secretary of the EAC-PM. The government has dropped economists Rathin Roy and Shamika Ravi as part time members of the Council.

Ravi, Director of Research at Brookings India, has been critical of government’s approach towards tackling the economic slowdown. “We are faced with a structural slowdown. Urgently need to follow a #NationalGrowthStrategy with time bound goals for many ministries. Need major reforms, not mere tinkering. Leaving economy to the finance ministry is like leaving the growth of a firm to its accounts department,” Ravi said in a tweet on August 22. India’s GDP growth fell to a 25-quarter low of 5 per cent in April-June quarter.

Last week, the Centre announced a major structural reform by cutting corporate tax rate to 22 per cent from 30 per cent — costing a total of Rs 1.45 lakh crore annually — to address the slowdown and to promote private invest-

While Sajid Chinoy has been roped in as a member, economists Rathin Roy and Shamika Ravi have been dropped as part time members

ment in the economy. She also questioned Centre’s latest move to ban e-cigarettes. “Why ban when you can tax (heavily)? Banning #ecigarettes while keeping tobacco products is bizarre. Neither health nor fiscal grounds for this decision, so what’s the logic?,” Ravi said in a tweet on September 18.

Roy, Director at National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, has also been vocal about the slowdown facing the Indian economy for many months, and argued the need for PUSHING structural reforms instead of fiscal stimulus. “Muddled macro, asserting slowdown cyclical then arguing for sector, admin reforms, relative price distortion fixes — all measures to fix structural problems. Easy macro policy absent structural change can temporarily boost growth. That’s not counter-cyclical. That’s populist,” he said in a tweet on August 21. The EAC-PM advises Prime Minister Narendra Modi on macroeconomic issues and other matters referred to it by Modi. So far it has not made its suggestions made to PM on economic matters public. The Council submitted papers on issues including employment, macroeconomic situation and growth to the Prime Minister’s Office.

Georgieva named IMF MD

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 25

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund on Wednesday formally selected Kristalina Georgieva of Bulgaria to be only the second woman ever to lead the 189-member institution.

The selection had been all but guaranteed after the global crisis lender said earlier this month that Georgieva, a former World Bank CEO, was the sole candidate.

In acknowledging her selection, Georgieva spoke of tempestuous times for the global economy. “It is a huge responsibility to be at the helm of the IMF at a time when global economic growth continues to disappoint, trade tensions persist, and debt is at historically high levels,” she said in a statement.

“This means also dealing with



KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA,
Former World Bank CEO

issues like inequalities, climate risks and rapid technological change.” She is to take up her position as managing director on October 1, replacing Christine Lagarde, who is set to take over the European Central Bank later this year. Georgieva’s rise perpetuates Europe’s long-standing control over the designation of the fund’s

leadership.

She inherits the helm of an institution buffeted by the rise of populism in advanced economies and escalating trade conflicts — the largest of which has been driven by the United States, the fund’s single biggest shareholder.

Georgieva, who was championed by Paris, overcame a challenge within the divided European Union from Germany which had backed former Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem. Under an unwritten rule, a European has led the IMF since its creation in the aftermath of World War II while the leader of the fund’s sister organisation, the World Bank, has been designated by Washington.

David Malpass, a former US Treasury official who took office earlier this year as president of the World Bank, likewise faced no opposition.

19 THE RURAL

TRACKING THE CHANGING INDIA IN ITS VILLAGES

CLIMATE AND AGRICULTURE

Wet Woes

Too much of rains have spelt disaster for farmers in the country's soyabean bowl

MILIND GHATAI
SEHORE (MP), SEPTEMBER 25

STANDING IN ankle-deep water engulfing his field, Kamal Singh Dhangar takes a wild shot at the likely yield from the soyabean crop that practically lies in ruins behind him. "Ek bora, do bora mushkil (one bag, two bags with difficulty)," notes the 58-year old with a wry smile, minutes after a fresh spell of rains has lashed Guradiya Sirajuddin village in Ashta tehsil of Madhya Pradesh's (MP) Sehore district. While the same three-acre plot had given nearly 16 quintals of soyabean last year, Dhangar this time isn't sure he can even afford labourers to harvest the negligible produce staring in his face. He draws solace only from his not being alone. Most farmers in Guradiya Sirajuddin as well as neighbouring villages have reported widespread damage to their already matured standing crop.

Gulab Singh, who owns 10 acres not far from Dhangar's field, is ruing his decision to have taken an additional six acres of land on lease for cultivating soyabean and wheat this year. "I have paid the owner Rs 1.5 lakh. By now, this soyabean crop should have been ready for taking to Ashta mandi (agriculture produce market at the tehsil town, about 10 km away). But my *shauk* (expensive pursuit) has proved costly," remarks the 60-year-old, who, too, cannot enter his field without wading through water almost touching the knees.

Seated at the edge of his flooded field a few hundred meters away, Dev Singh, a sprightly octogenarian, cannot remember the year when the monsoon rains caused such late-stage havoc. "I may have been this big," he says, pointing to a man many decades younger to him.

Western MP, in which Sehore falls, has received 1,335.4 millimeters of average rainfall from June 1 to September 25, 58% more than the region's historical normal of 845.3 mm for this period. However, the real story lies in the month-wise figures. In June, the opening month of the southwest monsoon season, the rains were actually 25.6% below the long-period average. In July, they were 31.2% above average. That surplus rose to 63.6% in August, while a whopping 158% more so far this month, confirming Dev Singh's observation. Worse, there's little respite, with more rains predicted over the next few days.

The monsoon has taken its toll mainly on soyabean. According to the Union agriculture ministry's data, a total area of 113,449 lakh hectares (1h) has been planted under this leguminous oilseed in the current kharif season, with the bulk of it accounted for by MP (55.16 lh), Maharashtra (39.595 lh) and Rajasthan (10.608 lh). Within MP, the main soyabean-growing districts are Ujjain, Dewas, Indore, Dhar, Ratlam, Mandsaur, Rajgarh, Shajapur, Sehore and Vidisha. The crop in low-lying areas is the one that has been worst affected.

"Farmers who had sown early-maturity (80-90 days duration) varieties such as JS 9560 and JS 2034 just after mid-June will take the biggest hit. Their crop would already have matured; the longer it remains in the field, the more the chances of the grain rotting. Also, these farmers will not be able to save this grain for using as seed next



(Below) Octogenarian farmer Dev Singh and (above) Kamal Singh Dhangar at his waterlogged soyabean field in Goradiya Sirajuddin village of Madhya Pradesh's Sehore district. Milind Ghatwai



year," admits V S Bhatia, director of the Indian Institute of Soyabean Research at Indore.

On the other hand, longer-duration varieties maturing in 95-105 days, like JS 20-69, NRC 86 and JS 97-52, are unlikely to suffer major yield loss, as their grain is not fully ripe yet for harvesting. Moreover, since the rains were poor in June, much of sowing anyway took place in July, thereby further reducing the likelihood of damage. "The vegetative growth and pod formation has been very good. As of now, the overall loss may be 10-15% and the areas where the crop is still good should compensate for those badly impacted," adds Bhatia.

The Soyabean Processors Association of India (SOPA), on August 30, reported that water-logging from continuous rains in MP had led to crop damage in "some low lying areas". But there was "no widespread and excessive damage" and any such reports were "either motivated or put forth without verification," the Indore-based association had said, based on its own quick crop survey assessment.

"Of course, there is damage to the crop in parts of MP, but I cannot at this moment tell how much. There is also too much unnecessary speculation in the market. At the same time, the Maharashtra crop is excellent," claims D N Pathak, executive director

of SOPA, which is planning to undertake a fresh survey whose report, though, will be ready only by October 10.

This relatively sanguine prognosis is countered by Kedar Sirohi, working president of the ruling Congress party's Kisan cell. According to him, almost 60% of the crop in the Malwa-Nimad-Bhopal belt that produces over three-fourths of MP's soyabean has been affected. Incessant rains and the black soils of Malwa-Nimad, which tend to hold water, have resulted in the plants not even growing to full height. The 90-day varieties have not merely matured, but the pods have even started to germinate.

Meanwhile, the average modal price of soyabean in the Ujjain mandi has risen from Rs 3,576 to Rs 3,970 per quintal since the start of this month. The current rates are above the minimum support price of Rs 3,710 declared by the Narendra Modi government for the 2019-20 kharif season.

But all this only cold comfort for Santosh Yadav, 38. He, like other farmers in Lachhirampura village in Ashta, is awaiting clear dry skies for a few days to salvage whatever is left of his crop. With the fields soggy and flooded, using combine harvesters is out of question. That could well mean harvesting labourers raising their rates from Rs 300 to Rs 500 per day. "I have borrowed money from a trader, which has to be repaid once my crop is harvested. Now, that it has nearly failed, he is likely to tell me to simply eat less," states Yadav half in jest.

An unequal burden

Farmers are paying about Rs 15,000 crore GST annually, on which they cannot claim input tax credit

HARISH DAMODARAN

AGRICULTURE IS a unique business that not only has high production as well as price risk, but also one where everything is bought retail and sold wholesale. This reality, moreover, extends even to Goods and Services Tax (GST): Farmers are the only businessmen today who cannot claim input tax credit (ITC) on the sales they make.

Bhagirath Choudhary, founder-director of the New Delhi-based South Asia Biotechnology Centre, was recently shocked to pay 18% GST on pheromone traps and lures that are used by farmers to attract insect pests. "These are required for monitoring and trapping of adult male moths to prevent mating and laying of eggs by the females. We advise spraying of chemical pesticides only as a last resort, when the number of moths caught exceeds a certain threshold level" says the 45-year-old, whose agri-technology dissemination organisation claims to have reached out to nearly 15,000 maize farmers across India and distributed 2,500 traps-cum-lures as part of an educational programme to control the dreaded fall armyworm pest.

But 18% GST is levied not just on traps and dispensers impregnated with synthesised mimics of sex-attractants released by female insects. Even regular agro-chemicals/pesticides and safety kits (eyewear, masks and gloves) necessary to spray these attract this duty. The GST rates are slightly lower, at 5-12%, for botanical and biological insecticides such as *Azadirachtin*, *Nomuraea rileyi*, *Metarhizium anisopliae* and nuclear polyhedrosis virus formulations, which are also used at very early stages of infestation.

"When I first bought 50 traps and an equal number of lures containing pheromones, the bill came to Rs 2,540. Only after checking the invoice did I discover that it included a GST amount of Rs 387.46. That made me curious and find out more. As it turned out, there is GST on every farm input, barring seed and animal/poultry feed. Even on government-subsidised fertilisers, you have to pay 5% GST," notes Choudhary, who is himself the son of a farmer from Dudiyon Ki Dhani, a hamlet in Bilara tehsil of Rajasthan's Jodhpur district.

The problem, however, is not with GST per se. The real issue is that for the GST paid on the purchase of any input - whether fertiliser, pesticide, pheromone trap, tractor, drip/sprinkler irrigation systems or other agri equipment - the farmer has no means to using it for reducing his tax liability. This is not just because most farmers are ignorant about ITC/GST and cannot afford to hire the services of chartered accountants. The actual reason is simply that all farm produce attract zero GST. Hence, there's no way a farmer can claim credit to the extent of GST paid on purchases when he makes a sale.

"It's one thing for the farmer to pay GST on soap, toothpaste, biscuit, television or two-wheeler, which are all final consumption items. But when he buys fertiliser or pesticide, these are being used for growing crops, not consumption. The farmer's inability to set off the taxes paid on inputs employed in the production process violates the letter and spirit of GST. In every other business, the goods used as intermediates are eligible for ITC. The same basic foundational principle ought to be extended to farm inputs," points out Choudhary.

The right way to address this anomaly, ac-



WHAT FARMERS PAY

	GST Rate (%)
Fertilisers	5
Botanicals/biologicals	5-12
Tractors & combines	12
Pumps	12
Drip/Sprinkler systems	12
Farm implements	12
Pesticides	18
Pheromone traps/lures	18
Pesticide safety kits	18

cording to him, is by exempting all farm inputs from GST. Farmers can, in theory, reap the benefits of ITC if their produce is also brought under GST. But doing that would impose unnecessary procedural burden, similar to what lakhs of micro, small and medium enterprises have already experienced post GST.

"Agro-chemical companies and tractor makers don't mind paying GST. In fact, they want this, in order to be able to claim credit for the GST paid on active ingredient, packaging material or components. But why is only the farmer now being forced to shell out taxes on which there is no set-off facility? The government should exempt at least recurrently used farm inputs from GST and devise a mechanism for refunding manufacturers on the taxes paid by them, which will otherwise be loaded on to the farmer," he adds.

Choudhary has estimated the GST paid by farmers on crop protection chemicals alone - at 18% on a market size of Rs 16,628 crore in 2018-19, comprising insecticides (Rs 8,273 crore), fungicides (Rs 4,464 crore) and herbicides (Rs 3,891 crore) - at Rs 2,536.5 crore. The maximum retail price value of fertilisers sold in 2018-19 was, likewise, roughly Rs 75,000 crore, inclusive of a 5% GST component of Rs 3,750 crore. The annual market size of tractors is Rs 42,000 crore, taking sales of 7 lakh units at an average MRP of Rs 6 lakh, in which the 12% GST comes to Rs 4,500 crore.

"If you add all other inputs - including electric/diesel pump-sets, micro-irrigation systems and agri implements (even Happy Seeders touted as a solution to the problem of paddy stubble burning attract 12% rate!) - the total GST being paid by farmers, on which they cannot claim ITC, would probably cross Rs 15,000 crore," reckons Chaudhary.

That's quite a substantial set-off not happening, about which few farm leaders or politicians claiming to have agrarian background are even aware.

ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURE

Natural farming's time has come, seize the moment

Consumers today are willing to pay for organic produce. What is required is a policy framework to enable farmers to cater to this market



PV S SURIYAKUMAR

A FEW months back, I was at an artisanal products exhibition, where there was a stall showcasing organic leather bags. A buyer marvelled: "Wow, we have organic leather too?" The stall-person's response was, "Sir, this is from animals that were fed only natural grass and organic oil-cakes when alive".

One may call the above a marketing stunt or even exploitation of sentiment, but the point is consumers, including in India, are increasingly looking for food and non-food agricultural products that are free of chemicals. There are versions of farming without chemicals: From Rudolf Steiner's Biodynamic Agriculture, Masanobu Fukuoka's One Straw Revolution and Miguel Altieri's Agro-ecology, to the latest Subhash Palekar's Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF). All have a common philosophy - farming based on using natural inputs, treating the soil as a living entity, promoting biological diversity and protecting the health of our ecosystem. These will, in turn, reflect on human wellbeing and the food that we eat.

Palekar's ZBNF runs on four "wheels":

Jiwamrita (a microbial culture of dung and urine from indigenous cow species, jaggery, pulses flour, bund soil and water), *Bijamrita* (a seed treatment solution with almost the same ingredients), Mulching (covering the topsoil with dried leaves and straw for moisture conservation and proper aeration) and *Waaphasa* (providing water outside the plant's canopy). These four elements will ensure that the crop receives enough nutrients through the action of living microorganisms in the soil, in addition to the water, carbon dioxide, nitrogen and solar energy for photosynthesis that come "free" from the monsoon rains, air and sun. ZBNF also advocates insect and pest management through decoction sprays of *Agniastra*, *Bramhastra* and *Neemastra*, which are made using *desi* cow urine, tobacco and leaves/pulp of neem, datura, garlic, papaya and pomegranate.

Whatever name they go by, natural farming approaches are now finding acceptance even from governments. Sikkim claims to have become India's first fully organic state. Andhra Pradesh has established Rythu Sadhikara Samstha, a not-for-profit company that aims at extending the reach of ZBNF to all six million farmers of the state by 2023-24. The ultimate endorsement for ZBNF has, of course, come from the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's 2019-20 budget speech and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's own address at the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on September 9.

While agricultural scientists may dismiss

ZBNF as "unproven" technology, there is a clear market, nevertheless, emerging even in India for products from natural farming. A recent ASSOCHAM-EY study has estimated the size of this market to touch Rs 10,000-12,000 crore by 2020. It is also a fact that the cost of chemical fertilisers, pesticides and energy used in conventional agriculture has skyrocketed in recent times, even as crop realisations for farmers have plummeted. This, along with the growing consumer preference for organic products, has opened up possibilities for natural farming.

If consumers are prepared to pay more for organic produce, the challenge lies in enabling farmers to adopt ZBNF and other such agricultural practices. Our scientific establishment has not shown much interest in these, which may partly have to do with legacy issues: Most of the agricultural universities in India are based on the US Land Grant Colleges model and they came up largely during the Green Revolution period. That explains why whenever any discussions on natural farming take place, the immediate reaction from scientists is that our soils don't have enough nitrogen, phosphorus or potash and we cannot feed our population without chemical fertilisers. Many even belittle organic models as NGO-driven, despite the Indian Council of Agricultural Research recently starting a National Organic Farming Research Institute at Tadong in Sikkim. Scientists also haven't accepted the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), a technique of cultivating paddy in soil that is kept moist



An organic tomato farm at a village in East Sikkim. Partha Paul

rather inundated with water. Through early and careful transplanting of 10-12-day-old seedlings, alongside wider spacing, SRI results in far more number of tillers per plant than from growing in knee-deep water.

What can policymakers do to making organic agriculture viable, especially for 85% of India's farmers who have less than one-hectare holding?

To start with, they should recognise that India is a vast country with many agro-climatic zones, crops and, within that, myriad varieties, some high yielding and some local cultivars. While our policy focus earlier was to increase production, the emphasis now should be on what is an optimal model for each of these zones, crops, varieties and even

different classes of farmers. Equally important to note is that each model - be it natural farming or growing high-yielding varieties/hybrids responsive to application of chemical inputs - has prerequisites. The organic models, including SRI, are more fastidious and labour-intensive, as they work at restoring ecosystems.

Secondly, there should be no discrimination against natural farming through extension of subsidy only on chemical fertilisers. Let all farmers be entitled to a fixed sum of money per acre, which they can use either to buy chemical-based inputs or engage the extra labour required for organic agricultural operations. One criticism against ZBNF is that it doesn't factor in the labour required for main-

taining indigenous cows (which yield less milk), collecting their dung and urine, and making the various *Jiwamrita*, *Bijamrita* or *Neemastra* concoctions. We forget that urea, di-ammonium phosphate or Rynaxypyr insecticide are all made in factories and delivered to farmers in practically ready-to-use form. How can farmers be motivated to practice organic agriculture when the basic input in this case - labour - has an opportunity cost? The least policy can do is to make agricultural subsidies/incentives technology-agnostic, so that farmers can freely choose between organic and non-organic.

Third, just as there are firms manufacturing fertilisers, crop protection chemicals and hybrid seeds, why not have enterprises that produce and sell organic inputs? This would make it viable for farmers to use these inputs directly, apart from helping create a new industry that will produce them in accordance with minimum quality standards. The government can further provide support to institutions providing training to farmers in organic agriculture, which is both labour as well as knowledge-intensive.

Finally, there can be no better time for a communication campaign targeting farmers and consumers on the benefits of organic. Remember what the National Egg Coordination Committee's 'Sunday *ho ya* Monday, *roz khao ande*' ad jingles in the nineties did for our poultry industry? When the national mood is slowly moving towards natural farming, it offers a perfect moment to launch a surgical strike.

The writer is chief general manager at National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

SMALL ISLANDS AND CLIMATE DIPLOMACY

Nothing so concentrates the mind

Small islands are on the front line of climate change. Yet many still face extinction

WHEN HURRICANE DORIAN rolled across the Abaco islands on September 1st, packing winds of 300kph (185mph) and bringing sea surges of nearly eight metres (26 feet), it was as powerful as any Atlantic storm ever to have hit land. The destruction it wrought was devastating, the death toll said to be “staggering”. Dorian’s ravages have drawn attention to the vulnerability of small islands. It is, laments James Cameron, head of the ODI, a development think-tank, “a vision of the future”.

The fear is that climbing global temperatures will bring more extreme storms and rising sea levels which threaten the very existence of small island states and low-lying coastal regions. They are vulnerable not only to violent weather but also to loss of livelihoods as farmers and fishermen feel the effects of warming. Eventually whole islands may be submerged. More than half of the territory of the Maldives is less than a metre above sea level. “We are most impacted and we are continuously leading the way by example, advocating and persuading others to increase ambition on addressing climate change,” says Thilmeeza Hussain, the Maldives’ ambassador to the UN.

Small island developing states (SIDS) account for less than 1% of the world’s GDP, territory, population and greenhouse-gas emissions. On most issues their voice barely registers on the world stage. Yet on climate matters they have, over three decades, become an effective lobby.

Mr Cameron was one of a small group of young British lawyers who helped them come together. In 1988 he wrote a legal opinion for Greenpeace on whether the United States could be taken to the International Court of Justice for its failure to act on climate change. He concluded that such a case would be hard to bring as America would refuse jurisdiction for it, but that the arguments for state responsibility based on the evidence could and should be made in an international treaty. Along with the most affected states, he and others pushed for one. This led to the formation in 1990 of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

By the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 Mr Cameron had his treaty—the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. AOSIS had grown to more than three dozen members and gained recognition as representing a distinct set of interests. Today, its 39 full members and five observers are spread across three regions (the Caribbean, the Pacific and a group straddling the African, Indian and South China seas) and include some low-lying coastal countries, such as Belize and Guyana. Individually, they have limited means: when Fiji presided over the annual global climate gathering in 2017 it had to be held in Bonn. But their collective influence has been big.

“AOSIS put the climate crisis on the map, way before anyone else was taking it seriously,” says Mark Lynas, a writer and adviser to the Maldives’ government. Island states were the first to feel the impact of rising sea levels. They risked being drowned by richer nations’ carbon emissions—and they told those countries so. “They’ve been incredibly successful in changing the tone and influencing policy,” says Mr Lynas.

They have managed to get wording included in climate accords that addresses their specific concerns—on losses and damages from climate change, for example, or on their need for financial support to adapt to it. In the



Shortly before the Copenhagen climate summit in 2009, the Maldives’ government held a cabinet meeting under water. More than half of the territory of the Maldives is less than a metre above sea level. AP

Paris agreement of 2015 the inclusion of an aspiration to restrain global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels (going beyond the target of 2°C) was “almost entirely down to SIDS and other developing states”, according to Mr Lynas. More generally, the island states have offered an example of getting organised and pushing for international collaboration, in an area where joint action is the only way to make a difference.

On September 27th a whole day is to be devoted to the SIDS towards the end of the UN General Assembly in New York. Leaders will review progress of the SAMOA Pathway (short for SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway), a blueprint for sustainable development which happened to emerge from a summit in Samoa in 2014.

Why the outsized impact? The SIDS have three things going for them. One is focus: survival concentrates the mind. Ms Hussain, of the Maldives, estimates she spends 70-80% of her time on climate-change and sustainable-development issues.

Second, their moral argument packs a punch. The islanders have been skilled at pointing to the peril they face, with catchphrases such as “Save Tuvalu, save the world” and “1.5 to stay alive”. Shortly before the Copenhagen climate summit in 2009, the Maldives’ government held a cabinet meeting under water.

Island leaders do not mince their words.

Take the recent summit of the Pacific Islands Forum in Tuvalu. Australia, one of the group’s 18 members, insisted on removing references to coal in the final declaration and on softening the language. Tuvalu’s prime minister, Enele Sopoaga, chided his Australian counterpart, Scott Morrison: “You are concerned about saving your economy in Australia...I am concerned about saving my people in Tuvalu.” Mr Sopoaga reported that during the meeting Tonga’s prime minister, Aklisi Pohiva (who died this month), “actually cried”.

Third, crucially, the SIDS have strength in

numbers. Together, they are about a third of all developing countries and a fifth of UN members. That gives them ample speaking time and voting power in the UN.

Kevin Conrad, who became an activist after seeing beaches disappearing at home in Papua New Guinea and now heads the Coalition for Rainforest Nations, recalls the drama of the Montreal climate summit in 2005. More than 20 countries spoke in support of greater efforts to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions that America was resisting. The momentum worked: “Building broad coalitions is what wins,” he says.

Mr Conrad was involved in more drama two years later, at the UN climate conference in Bali. Once again, America was holding out against the consensus, this time for a plan for a new climate treaty. Speaking as Papua New Guinea’s representative, Mr Conrad addressed the United States: “We seek your leadership, but if for some reason you’re not willing to lead, leave it to the rest of us; please, get out of the way.” He was cheered. In a moment that has gone down in climate-diplomacy lore, America soon announced it would join the consensus.

There is no chance of a similar moment at the UN secretary-general’s Climate Action Summit in New York on September 23rd. President Donald Trump is not about to reverse his decision to take America out of the Paris agreement. But the island states are still hoping to make a splash in New York next week, and have put together a “SIDS package” to be presented there.

For a start, they want to highlight the need to heed the warnings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on what is required to limit global warming to 1.5°C. In a report published last October the IPCC stressed the difference in terms of impact between capping warming at 1.5°C and letting it rise to 2°C; drastic action would be needed over the next decade to have any hope of achieving this. The islanders are

calling for scaled-up ambition. They hope to see the bigger carbon-emitters publicly accepting the IPCC’s report.

They also want to show how bold action can be taken. “SIDS have absolutely nothing to do with this mess that we’re in with climate change, we have contributed the least, and yet we want to proceed by example,” says Lois Young, the UN ambassador of Belize, which this year took over from the Maldives as chair of AOSIS. They aspire to shift to 100% renewable energy and map a path to carbon neutrality. The Marshall Islands have led the way in submitting a plan to become carbon-neutral by 2050.

No island is an island

Such plans are costly, as is investment needed in things like reinforced harbours and desalination plants to adapt to the climate changes the island states are already seeing. So mobilising finance is another priority. The SIDS complain that the money pledged to date is inadequate and often tied up in red tape. In New York, they want chunky commitments from big countries.

Impressive as their diplomatic efforts have been, however, the island states face further struggles. Keeping the world’s attention is not easy. Belize has been scrambling to persuade world leaders to attend the SIDS day on September 27th. Climate outrage has spread, and other groups of countries have piled in. For the island states the broadening of climate concern is welcome but means their own leaders are less often the go-to spokespeople.

AOSIS remains largely united in its message and strategy. But its members are affected by climate change in different ways so divisions can arise. Advisers who push for climate radicalism and those who give priority to getting things done for development do not always see eye to eye.

Nor is it clear that the island states are winning the diplomatic fight. Apparent victories in public forums can get beaten back in subsequent bureaucratic battles. As the spat with Australia in Tuvalu shows, and as arguments ahead of next week’s review of the SAMOA Pathway also suggest, the island states still find themselves having to argue over language that reflects the scale of action needed.

Above all, the threat has not gone away. In the long term, extinction still beckons since the world has done far too little to curb greenhouse-gas emissions. “Adaptation can only go so far when your nation is going under water,” says Mr Lynas of the atoll countries. If the moral case does not work, some say, it is time for a new strategy, for example embracing radical technologies such as climate engineering.

Failing that, for some small island states the future may involve negotiating with countries that can offer higher land to move their people to, or trying to defend rights over territorial waters whose boundaries were drawn based on land that has become submerged. AOSIS could find itself back where it began—with lawyers.

Hence the urgency in the run-up to the sessions in New York next week. At stake is the islands’ future—and much more. According to Janine Felson, Ms Young’s deputy and Belize’s technical lead for AOSIS, “we have a very small window of opportunity to make a very big shift.”

CHAGUAN

An atheist party gets religion

China’s atheist Communist Party encourages folk religion

THERE ARE several ways to gauge whether the Communist Party of China approves of an institution. A brass nameplate, issued by an arm of the party or state, is one sign. A stamp for endorsing important materials can be used as a further badge of respectability. But the best test of approved status, arguably, is the issuing of lots of paperwork. Somewhat surprisingly, a Ming dynasty temple hidden up an alleyway off Shipu harbour, one of eastern China’s largest fishing ports, passes all these tests.

An incense-scented haven of red wood-work and worn grey flagstones, the temple is dedicated to Mazu, a tenth-century maiden who miraculously saved relatives from a shipwreck and later became a goddess. Older residents remember when the temple risked destruction as a den of feudal superstition. During the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, when sacred sites were razed by Maoist zealots and countless priests and monks were harried to death, the temple became a primary school. Red Guards tried to ransack the place, says Han Sulian, a temple volunteer. But locals “threatened to beat them up so they backed off”, she recalls with pride. Sailors never stopped believing in Mazu, adds Ms Han. They would wear incense pouches as secret talismans when they left Shipu to hunt eels and yellow

croaker in the East China Sea.

Today, fishermen need not hide their prayers. Chaguan visited the temple on September 16th, hours before party bigwigs and other officials arrived. They were in Shipu to open a new fishing season, ending a ban imposed on May 1st to allow exhausted stocks a chance of recovery. A brass plate on the temple’s weathered façade shows it is licensed by the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Committee of Zhejiang province. Inside, new banners in embroidered yellow satin lie on the altar, ready

for marking in red ink with the temple’s stamp, before being flown from boats’ masts. Paperwork, in the form of stacks of prayer slips, combines belief and bureaucracy. A slip bears the hull numbers of two ships, their skippers’ names and handwritten appeals for the boats to encounter calm seas and return with full holds.

Crews will burn their slips before leaving Shipu, a pretty harbour surrounded by steep wooded hills. Meanwhile local women busy themselves sorting bottles of wine, left over from a fishermen’s banquet the night before. That open-air feast, overseen by beaming officials and filmed by state television, culminated in a waterborne procession of illuminated trawlers. The boats carried statues of Mazu and other deities past tourists on the harbourside, glow-

ing smartphone cameras held aloft.

The party remains officially atheist. Though formal tolerance of five faiths—Buddhism, Daoism, Islam and two strands of Christianity, Protestantism and Catholicism—was reinstated in 1982, six years after the death of Mao Zedong, rules have tightened under President Xi Jinping. He has called for the “sinicisation” of religion. In plainer language this means that all beliefs must in the end bow to a worldlier credo, involving party-ordained patriotism and family values. Organs of state repression have targeted Muslims accused of excessive piety, particularly in the western region of Xinjiang, where hundreds of thousands of Muslims, mostly from the Uighur minority, have been detained in re-education camps. Tibetan Buddhists live in a surveillance state largely closed to foreigners. Even in prosperous Zhejiang, officials have ordered crosses that are too prominent to be torn off hundreds of Christian churches, and shut down unofficial “house churches”. In contrast certain forms of faith are encouraged, especially those with roots in China and big followings among overseas Chinese. Mazu-worship fits that bill. Over the centuries migrants from China’s maritime provinces have built temples to the goddess, also known as Tianhou, from Macau to Malaysia and Melbourne. Helpfully, Mazu worship is classed as a folk belief and not as a religion, notes Zhou Jinyan of the China Mazu Cultural Exchange Association, a semi-official body. That allows for looser regulation and for the faith’s promotion for economic and political ends.



Mazu has a big following in Taiwan. In 2011 Mr Xi urged officials to “make full use” of Mazu to woo Taiwanese, most of whom have ancestral ties with the mainland. Reuters

Mazu has a big following in Taiwan. In 2011 Mr Xi urged officials to “make full use” of Mazu to woo Taiwanese, most of whom have ancestral ties with the mainland. Taiwanese money built a gaudy new temple to Ruyi, a sister deity of Mazu’s, on a hill above Shipu. A lot of it came from relatives of the late “Blacky” Ko Sau Leung, a popular crooner and stuntman known for jumping the Yellow River in a sports car. Ko was among thousands of Zhejiang folk who were evacuated to Nationalist-held Taiwan in 1955 when the offshore islands they called home were overrun by Communist forces, some years after China’s civil war. Many settled in the Taiwanese port of Fugang, nicknamed “little Shipu”. Fugang believers are honoured

guests at Shipu’s fishing festival, bustling about in T-shirts reading “Goddess of the Sea”.

For those in peril on the sea

Grand ceremonies for Mazu were unknown 40 years ago when Zhou Quanyang, the owner of a 150-tonne fishing boat, was a boy, and China a much poorer place. “It’s when your belly is full and you have some money, that’s when you pray,” says Mr Zhou. Every fisherman has faith in Mazu, he says, as the town’s 2,800 vessels are readied for the fishing season. His own daughter, a university student, does not believe, he adds. This prompts unexpected sympathy from Chaguan’s minder, an official from the local county propaganda of-

fice listening to the exchange. With a father in such a dangerous line of work, that daughter “should probably believe more, and pray for her dad”, the minder exclaims.

Mazu has competition, revealed by the Chinese characters for “Emmanuel” discreetly painted on a few ships putting to sea. Perhaps 100 boats are Christian-owned, claims Peter, a local Protestant. Party leaders see Christianity as a foreign intruder, he laments. That is why they promote folk religion and “cultural confidence”. Yet the fishing life calls for deeper faith, Peter argues: the ocean reminds man how small he is in the face of nature.

21 TALK

ART, MUSIC, STYLE, FOOD



YOU'VE GOT GLOBE

Veteran actor Tom Hanks will be conferred with the Cecil B deMille honour at the 77th Golden Globe Awards in January. Hanks will join the list of past recipients — Meryl Streep, George Clooney and Oprah Winfrey — awarded for their impact in the world of entertainment.

Painting an Artist of Non-Violence

Three leading artists on how their work is influenced by Gandhi and his philosophy



POOJA PILLAI

READING GANDHI is both exasperating and elevating. You wonder if such a man really did exist," observed Gulammohammed Sheikh, at India International Centre in New Delhi last week. Sheikh was speaking at the event 'After Gandhi: Three Painters', organised by Raza Foundation as part of the series of monthly talks on and around Mahatma Gandhi to commemorate his 150th birth anniversary. Sheikh, along with artists Atul Dodiya and Riyas Komu, spoke about the influence that Gandhi has had on his art, directly or indirectly.

For the Vadodara-based artist, it wasn't a simple matter of making Gandhi's portrait. His struggle, Sheikh said, was to "retrieve Gandhi from his busts and statues, from postage stamps and rupee notes". To understand the leader, Sheikh had to read his words. He found himself asking what Gandhi would have done if he were alive today. "Skeptics say that he would have been assassinated at the first instance of facing violence with his *ahimsa*," said Sheikh. The contrast between the current state of the nation and the ideals and values that Gandhi had espoused, as well as his vision for independent India, began to find expression in Sheikh's art, such as the digital collage print, *Ark* (1996). Based on a well-known work, *A Boat Adrift on a River*, by the 18th century Pahari painter Nainsukh, Sheikh depicted a collection of figures of different faiths, sitting in the centre of the boat, while at one end sat Kabir and at the other sat Gandhi — guiding lights to lead a country riven with divisions.

Komu, similarly, spoke about finding ways to depict Gandhi by speculating what he would have made of the country as it is today. Komu sees in Gandhi many qualities that would be useful today. "He had the ability to distance himself," said



Dhamma Swaraj by Riyas Komu (top); *The Painful Resolution* by Atul Dodiya

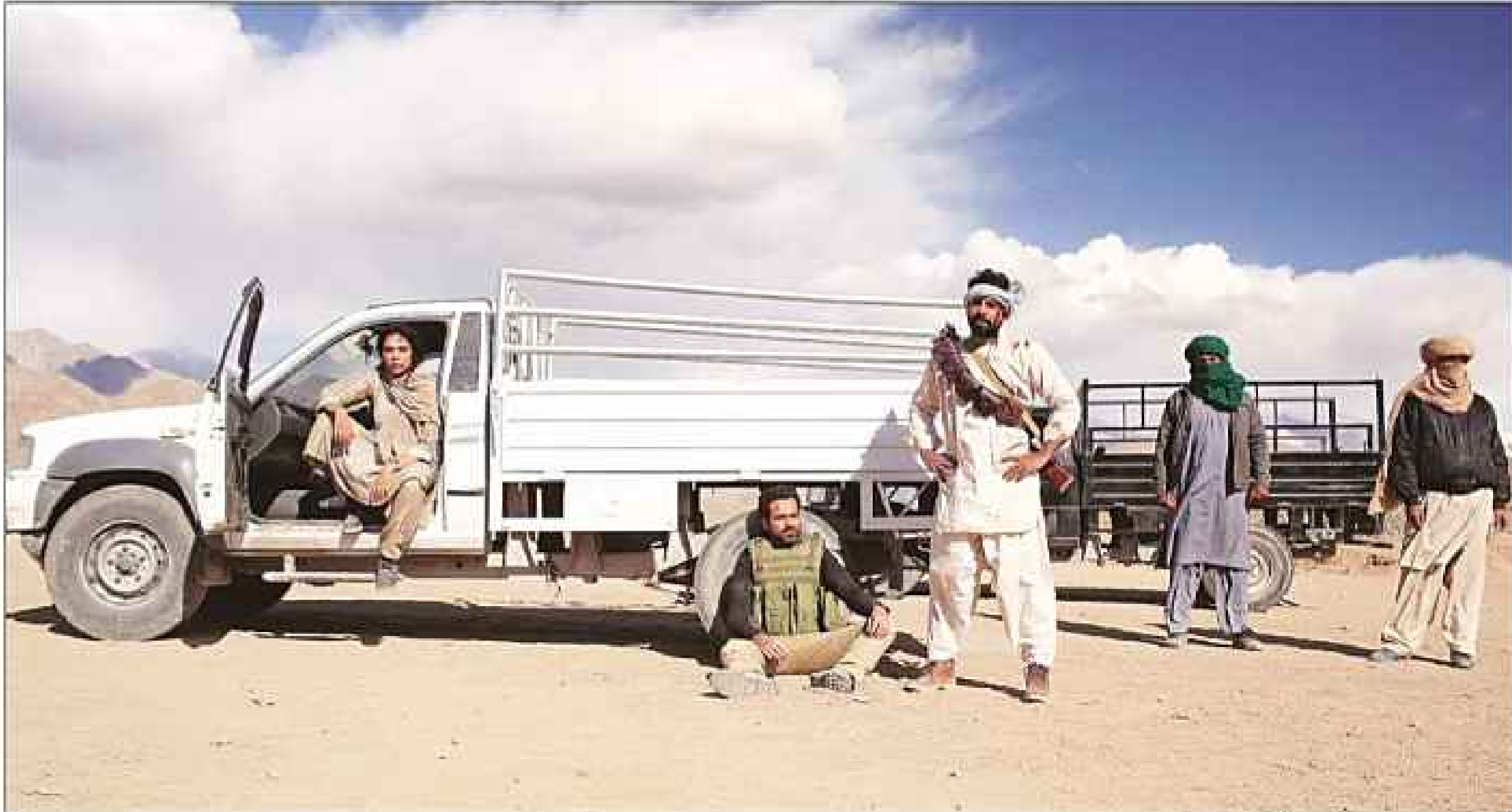
Komu, adding that in politics today, the room for such reflection has shrunk. "Gandhi has been flipped today, into an image of cleansing of the historic past," he said. In his own work, such as the oil-on-canvas triptych *Dhamma Swaraj* (2018), Komu has also celebrated Gandhi as a champion of the subaltern, along with figures such as BR Ambedkar and Karl Marx.

Of the three artists, Dodiya has perhaps engaged with Gandhi and Gandhian ideals the most, with about 200 works. From realistic works, made mostly with watercolors, Dodiya eventually moved to abstract depictions of the gulf between Gandhian ideals and India's reality, such as the 'Tearscape' series. His artistic engagement began in 1997, with the work *Lamentation*. One half of the canvas depicts Gandhi's figure retreating into the distance, and the other depicts Picasso's *First Steps* (1943) — a gesture towards a nation that was moving forward even as it was retreating from values past values. Scattered around the canvas are the lamenting angels of the proto-Renaissance Florentine artist, Giotto di Bondone. "I didn't know what I could do with Gandhi, but then I read his description of himself as 'an artist of non-violence'. I was reassured. I knew how I could approach an artist in my work," he said.

SNAPSHOT

Nature Calling

ITALIAN DESIGNER Maria Grazia Chiuri opened the Paris Fashion Week with Dior's Spring-Summer 2020 show inspired by gardens and forests. Chiuri, Dior's creative head, celebrated nature in its myriad forms by seeking inspiration in the legacy of Christian Dior's sister Catherine — the first female wholesaler from Paris. With gardening jackets and dresses embroidered with wildflowers, nature served as the central theme for the prints as well as the styling of the models, who walked the ramp surrounded by 164 trees from nurseries in Italy, Germany and France. The hair-styles had been worked upon to give them a Greta Thunberg look. Actor Deepika Padukone (pictured) attended the event in a brown printed maxi dress, culled from Dior's cruise collection.



Emraan Hashmi and Sobhita Dhulipala in a still from *Bard of Blood* (above); Ribhu Dasgupta

Die Another Day

The cast of spy-series, *Bard of Blood*, on tough conditions and significance of digital space for original content

EKTAA MALIK

IN NEW DELHI'S Taj Palace, an entire floor was almost cordoned off to accommodate the cast and crew of *Bard of Blood* — the new web series that will stream on Netflix. Comprising actors Emraan Hashmi, Sobhita Dhulipala, Viineet Kumar, Kirti Kulhari and director Ribhu Dasgupta and co-produced by Shah Rukh Khan's Red Chillies Entertainment, *Bard of Blood* is an Indian spy series, where Hashmi plays Kabir Anand, the titular 'Bard' — a former secret service agent — who leads an off-the-books mission to rescue four Indian operatives who have been taken captive by the Taliban in Balochistan. In the process, he is assisted by Isha Mathur (Dhulipala) and Veer Singh (Kumar). His day job is that of an English professor who loves the original *Bard of Avon*, and doesn't miss an opportunity to quote him.

The show is set primarily in Balochistan (Pakistan), in the cities of Quetta and Keach. The rough and arid terrains of Leh, Ladakh and Rajasthan in India were used to create the desired effect. "It was a gruelling 90-day shoot. Many members of the crew had nose and ear bleeds. But it was a tough schedule, with a lot of action. We shot in every possible weather and ended the Ladakh leg in snow. Physically, it was very demanding and a first-



of-its-kind experience for me," says Hashmi, sipping on his "saunf paani" (fennel water), as Dhulipala and Kumar nod in agreement.

He is also the only actor, who has read the book, *Bard of Blood*, written by Bilal Siddiqi, on which the seven-part web series is based. "I read the book when it came out in 2015. The show takes it up and lifts it up a notch," says the actor, who is making his digital debut with the show.

The show, which features an ensemble cast, is being helmed by Dasgupta. The book was given to him by Gaurav Verma, executive producer of the show. "It was a fast read, and I could feel the arid climate of Balochistan as I read it. And we wished to recreate that for the show. With the final script in place we heightened it all," says Dasgupta, who has earlier helmed the TV

It was a gruelling 90-day shoot. Many members had nose and ear bleeds. But it was a tough schedule, with a lot of action. We shot in every possible weather... Physically, it was very demanding and a first-of-its-kind experience for me

EMRAAN HASHMI

show, *Yudh*.

With *Bard of Blood*, the director has a veritable casting coup on his hands, and which in his own words, "made his job very easy". "Casting is a process, and we had rigorous auditions. No one would have imagined Viineet (Kumar) as a spy, and Sobhita as a secret service analyst. You need the right actors to back you up in an expansive project like this," adds Dasgupta. But Hashmi feels it's the other way around. "Ribhu should get an award just to deal with all of us. And he single-handedly directed all seven episodes. Normally most big web shows have two or more directors. Ribhu was too calm and led by example. There would be an action scene being shot somewhere, and one kilometre away, a dialogue heavy, dramatic scene would be taking place, and he dealt with all

of this," says Hashmi.

There has been a lot of talk about the digital space being the last bastion for original narratives and stories as it is not encumbered by the pressures of censorship, box office and a short shelf-life decided by a cinema hall. While Hashmi and Singh are making their digital debuts with the show, Dhulipala is already a household name, courtesy her role in Zoya Akhtar and Reema Kagti's popular series, *Made in Heaven*. "We should all be taking tips from her, as she is an expert of the medium," chuckles Hashmi. "I was curious about this format as an actor, curious about the process. But given the natural greed of an actor, I was quite happy to have such a long developmental arc for my character," states Hashmi, who was last seen in *Cheat India*. "I feel that some stories are better suited to be told through a digital medium. As it has space, the medium allows for silences, which otherwise is not possible in a two-hour film," shares Dhulipala.

There are rumours afloat about the show and how it has been made with a total cost of Rs 50 crore. "Throwing money at anything is never the answer. Look at *Fauda*, the Israeli show. It's a masterpiece of a show, done very simply, but the narrative holds you," adds Hashmi.

Bard of Blood streams on Netflix tomorrow

Age is Just a Number

HAMARI UMAR ke role toh kamsekam humse kara lo bhai", responded actor Neena Gupta on Twitter to someone who tagged her as a possible casting choice for the upcoming film, *Saand Ki Aankh*. With this tweet Gupta has raked quite a controversy on social media, calling out the underlying ageism in the Hindi film industry. A Twitter storm followed, and there were numerous comments regarding the relatively young casting of Taapsee Pannu and Bhumi Pednekar in the lead roles of 60-year-olds. The film focuses on two women in their 60s, and their journey to become ace shooters. As seen in the trailer of the film, the two actors

have been aged with heavy use of prosthetics and make-up. Pannu responded to the comments: "I just wonder if the same questions were asked when we loved what Anupam Kher did in *Saaranish*. Did we question Nargis Dutt when she played a mother to Sunil Dutt. Did we question John Travolta for playing a woman in *Hairspray*... Did we question when Aamir Khan played a college kid in *3 Idiots*?"

Older female actors have often spoken about the common practice in the industry. Most say that they are often relegated to the roles of mother or *daadi*. Actor Surekha Sikri recently told *The Indian Express*, "As an indus-

try, we don't write parts for older women... Glamour will always drive the choices... Look at Meryl Streep and Helen Mirren... Senior actors like me are not extended the same *izzat* (respect), or the same trust that we will deliver. Why? Just because we are of a certain age?"

Soni Razdan recently played a woman of retirement age in *Yours Truly* and the film focused on her living a single life. Gupta, too, had a brilliant role in the National Award-winning *Badhai Ho*, where she played the role of a mother who is expecting a child in her 50s. "I wish I could make my debut in the industry now. A sea of opportunities awaits young actors now. Older women are getting interesting roles. I am hopeful," Gupta had stated last year.

EKTAA MALIK



A still from *Saand Ki Aankh*

Up in the Air

A restaurant suspended from a crane, 160 feet above the ground, provides a thrilling experience with not so exciting food

POOJA PILLAI & AMIL BHATNAGAR

THE LATEST dining experience in Noida requires more than a cast iron stomach. Flydining Noida, which opened earlier this month, lets diners eat at a table suspended from a crane — 160 feet above the ground. The "dining experience", as partnering owner Namit Bharadwaj calls it, comprises a table and 24 chairs welded to a platform, which is then lifted into the air for 40 minutes, over the course of which diners are served a mocktail, snacks and dessert.

The place runs in five slots between 6 pm and 12 am at the moment. "We're planning to open up slots in the afternoon, because we've had many requests, particularly from women who want to host kitty parties," Bharadwaj said.

For a set-up like this, safety is paramount. Bharadwaj said that the entire structure, weighing 10 tonnes, has been built and certified in Germany, and there's a daily safety

check of the crane, which can lift upto 180 tonnes, and the platform to which the table and chairs are attached.

In the intervals between each 40-minute shift, the platform is cleaned and the equipment tested. Once customers are seated, their safety belts are checked three times. The staff, which wears safety harnesses, is also equipped with walkie talkies in case something goes wrong. According to the safety staff, the set-up does not get air-borne if the wind speed is more than 22km/hour, which is evaluated daily.

The experience doesn't come cheap. Currently, the price per seat is Rs 2499 from Monday to Thursday, while on the weekends, it rises to Rs 3000. The most common queries from customers, after immediate concerns about safety, are whether or not children are allowed and whether it's possible for a couple to book the whole table, looking for privacy on a romantic night out.

Chairs are designed to rotate sideways and incline backwards. A restaurant staffer



manually rotates the table, and apart from the guests, there are two chefs and a photographer present on the dining table. All three are harnessed to the roof of the table, which allows movement across the narrow space. "I have never worked in such a set-up before. But it's exciting. There is no feeling of fear and I feel safe," said one of the chefs, who doubles up as a DJ and changes music in between serving food.

At that height, one can see high-rise buildings, the DND flyway and all of Sector 18. It's a breathtaking view, which is a good

thing because the food is, frankly, incidental to the experience. Diners were served what the website refers to as "progressive Asian cuisine", which included Baked Roomali Paneer Pinwheel, Popeye's on the Sky (a corn cup served on crisp-fried spinach), Charred Waterchestnut and Shiitake Cake, House-made Banana Bonda with heavenly rice (served with Malaysian yellow curry) and Bird's Nest in the Air (crisp threads of Turkish pastry with white and dark chocolate). While the Paneer Pinwheel and rice with Malaysian yellow curry were flavoursome, the rest of



Flydining, a new restaurant in Noida, feeds diners while perched high up in the air
Photos: Abhinav Saha

the food was edible at best.

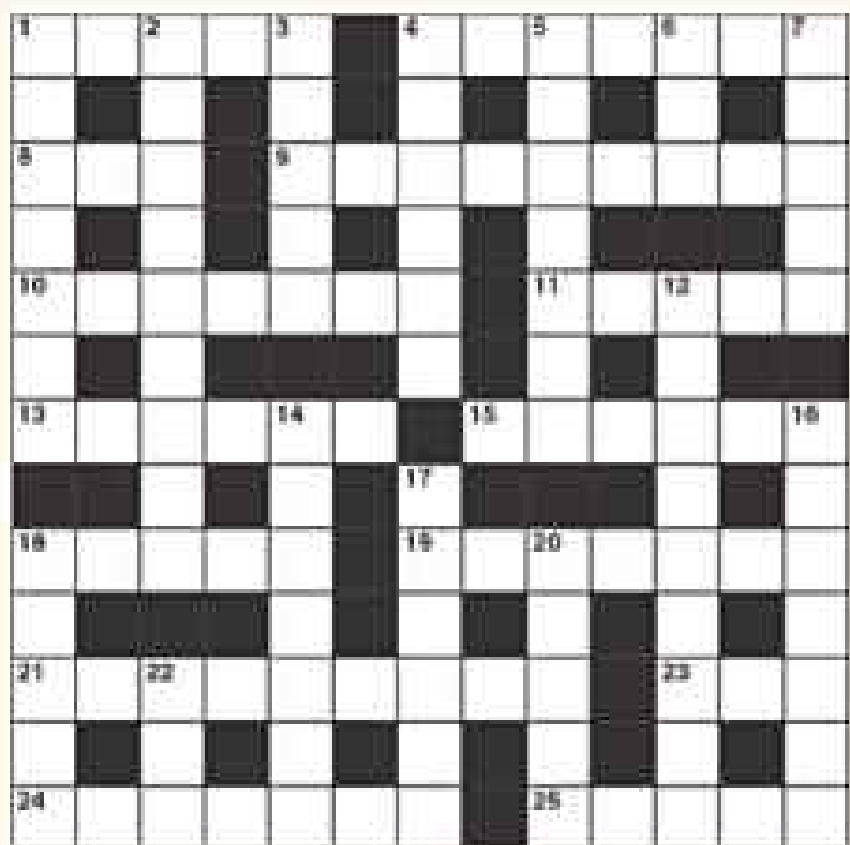
But this is one of those rare dining experiences which is not meant to be so much about the food, as about the adrenaline rush that comes with being perched so high up above the city with feet dangling in the air. A diner, Sakshi Jain, who was there with her family, said that apart from a twinge of anxiety when the platform became airborne, she enjoyed the experience. "After some time, you forget you were ever nervous, and the 40 minutes just fly by," she said.

In the event of dizziness or sickness, the

table can be lowered down to the ground in 30 seconds, said a security official. The experience was first tested in Bengaluru in August last year, but it has since shut down. The next preferred location, after Noida, is Gurgaon.

"There is no space in Delhi since the view is a crucial element of the dining experience. Gurgaon has a booming corporate set-up and there is place for innovation. Another restaurant is coming up in Hyderabad as well. The crane comes from Dubai while every other equipment is from Germany to ensure high quality," said Bharadwaj.

CROSSWORD 3920



- ACROSS**
- Change of clothing (5)
 - Debris from a glacier or a mine, perhaps (7)
 - Woodworker caught in tax evasion (3)
 - She helps dress the mistress and transform dismal day (5,4)
 - First-class students (7)
 - Fall into part of the main current (5)
 - They are bound to hold different views, for instance (6)
 - He was a very fair man (6)
 - In a position to give a broad smile (5)
 - He fails to launder (7)
 - As decreed I go in the artillery (9)
 - Tool which makes everything soundly (3)
 - A sorry speech? (7)
 - The way things go? (5)
- DOWN**
- It's a man in distress, and what could keep him going (7)
 - Unusually fine story with a moral defying description (9)
 - Claw used in fight along with teeth (5)
 - Diffident in two ways (6)
 - Discern perhaps and cut off (7)
 - She can provide a form of aid (3)
 - Duck that is returned by the German (5)
 - Hostile fire one can and does get involved in (9)
 - It reminds men to give me top priority (7)
 - Came to stay and paid the bill (7)
 - Score is two love (6)
 - It helps to make Gorgonzola romantic! (5)
 - The fall is general in a way (5)
 - A combination of variety (3)

Solutions Crossword 3919: Across: 1 Surrealist, 8 Brood, 9 Salerno, 10 Shining light, 11 Cleft, 12 Ignore, 14 Staple, 17 Kilns, 19 Aimless, 21 Tights, 22 Ideas, 23 Tie-on label. Down: 2 Utopian, 3 Radii, 4 Assign, 5 Illicit, 6 Terse, 7 Fortresses, 8 Bus tickets, 13 Rosette, 15 Precede, 16 Cannon, 20 Moira.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson

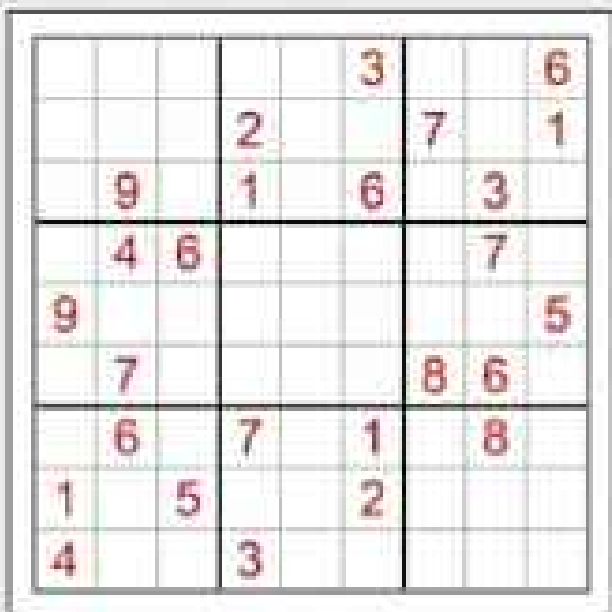


MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 3981

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.



Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 3980



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

There are certain ties and involvements which can never be broken. However, you must make minor adjustments if you are to continue to live an existence that is fulfilling and satisfying from a personal point of view. Hopefully you haven't backed yourself into too much of a corner.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Now that Venus, planet of love, is offering you gentle encouragement, you must take one or two important steps. The first is to acknowledge that other people have the advantage. The second is to stand back and allow them to enjoy their period of dominance.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Try to think of a possession or personal contact you are losing as something that you might be better off without. You know better than anyone that your future happiness depends more than anything on a change of attitude. Strangely, it would probably also do partners good if you altered your opinions.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

In spite of the many obstacles that circumstances are placing in your path, the long-term plan is still working in your favour. Never imagine that you are powerless in the face of fate. You're not, and if there's anything astrology can teach you, then it's how to create your own future.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Don't expect business affairs to go exactly according to plan. On the other hand, there is really no need to worry about short-term hiccups turning into long-term catastrophes — just as long as you keep your finger on the pulse. That way you'll be prepared for the unexpected.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Sure you have your shy side, but anyone who still believes that you are always timid is about to be put firmly in their place. However, over the next three days you can absolutely expect to meet considerably more opposition than for many weeks, so take a positive approach and listen to good advice.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Concern about a personal matter is due to increase over the next forty-eight hours, but this is all to the good if it alerts you to possible weaknesses. Put your time to good account by cleaning up your diet, improving your exercise and devoting more attention to your responsibilities.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

There's a minor planetary cycle at work that affects your sign and which comes to a head over the coming two or three days. The opportunities which now open up should be profoundly creative in the broadest sense and could, eventually, lead to a life which is so much more satisfying.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

People at home will be gearing up for a fight. This is one of those disputes in which nothing of substance seems to be involved beyond a feeling that someone's pride has been hurt. But, then, it's what exactly people feel that counts, and that's why they need to be placated.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

It may be wise to wait another few days before pressurising anybody else into a firm commitment. The fact is that close partners may feel much more strongly about your ideas than you realised. You should probably spend a little extra effort on gentle persuasion.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You're in a generally prosperous phase, but as soon as you stop concentrating, costs could shoot up. All that happens financially from now until the weekend may not be entirely to your liking. This is one of those times when you have to accept that the planets could be pushing you in a new direction.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You must be very careful what tactics you apply over the coming days. You may feel that it is wisest to sit back and let events take their own course, intervening only in the most critical situations. If someone close is absolutely determined to go their own way, then at least you can make sure that they succeed.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that this girl (depicted in the photo) namely: **Ronak D/o Mohd. Younus R/o Hariom Ka Malkan, Gali No.-70B, Swatantra Nagar, Narela, Delhi**, has been missing/ kidnapped from the area of P.S Narela, Delhi since **31.08.2019**. In this regard **FIR No. 391/91 u/s 363 IPC** dated **31.08.2019** has been registered at **PS Narela, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Her physical description is as under:-
Sex: Female, **Age:** 17 years, **Height:** 5'3" ft., **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** White colour Suit & Salwar with Chunnli. Any person is having information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the following:-

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> **P.S. Narela, Delhi**
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **Ph. No.: 011-27280435, 27282350**
Fax No.: 011-24368639 **Mob. No: 7065036323**
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 **DP/613/ON/19**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 50 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'0", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Build:** Thin, **Face:** Oval, **Normal Small Black/White Hair** having **Black/White Beard**, **ID Mark:** A Tatoo Mark "Rabiyar" on his right hand, **Wearing:** Blue Shirt and Grey Pant was found dead at U Turn, JLN Marg, Near Metro Generator Patri Gate No. 2, LNJPD, Darya Ganj, Delhi on 21.09.19. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours at the mortuary of Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi.

In this regard a **GD No. 41A**, dated 21.09.2019 has been registered at **P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi
DP/6598/CD/19 **Ph.: 011-23279331, 23274683**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 35-40 years of age whose name, residence and family is unknown, was found dead at S-Block chowk, Near Juice shop, Mangol Puri, Delhi on 12.09.19 at 06:37 AM. In this regard a vide has been registered with **FIR/DD No: 13-A u/s 174CrPc** dated **12.09.19** at **P.S. Raj Park, New Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the UDB is as under:
Sex: Male, **Age:** about 35-40 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Red colour shirt and grey colour pant. If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Raj Park, New Delhi.

SHO
P.S. Raj Park, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-27923709, 27910071
DP/2726/OD/19

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (E-TENDERING PROCESS)

Sl. No	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	Total
1	SE/MM-I	M.27	1

For details of works/Procurement/Due date of submission/opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

DIPR/3363/TENDER/2019

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum
Tender notice 131-DRM-MB DL : 19.09.2019 Date of Opening 15.10.2019
In NIT header of Tender invited vide Tender notice No. 131-DRM-MB dl. 19.09.2019 to be open on 15.10.2019 for the work of Through Rail Renewal (P/R 28.191 Km in the section of S/D DEHRADUN Inspection, published in Amar Ujala news paper on 21.09.2019 vide advertisement No. 3044/19. Due to Change the Item No. NS-6 i.e Unloading of 3/5/10/20 rail or any other length, 52Kg/60Kg/rail from BFR/BRH/DMT wagon in block section and in yards by contractor's own labour tools, plant material etc. and keeping them at a safe distance from running track (As decided by site Engineer) **Qty: 28191 Unit-Metre, Unit Rate 7.28, Basic value Rs.263230.48, should be read as Unloading of 3/5/10/20 rail or any other length, 52Kg/60Kg/rail from BFR/BRH/DMT wagon in block section and in yards by contractor's own labour tools, plant material etc. and keeping them at a safe distance from running track (As decided by site Engineer) Qty: 59144.25 Unit-Metre, Unit Rate 3.47, Basic value Rs.205230.35 and change in similar type of work i.e. CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of track/screening, drenching of track/bed, post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machines/balast screening/regulating & TTR by T&B in lieu of Any manual or mechanized track work involving CTR/TRR/TFR/Deep screening/ Shallow screening/overhauling/De-stressing/Raising/End cropping of track etc. Pre & Post work for track maintenance Machine & TTR by T&B. Published in Amar Ujala vide publication No.3044/19 Dated 21.09.2019. The other terms & conditions of the tender will remain same.** 3689/19
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संख्या : 232/06/E-UD.R./AC.F./2019-20 दिनांक : 25 सितम्बर, 2019
सहायक जन सहायक परीक्षा, 2019 केन्द्र विज्ञापित

एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि विज्ञापन संख्या-A-1/E-1/ACF/2019-20, दिनांक 30 जुलाई, 2019 को उत्तराखण्ड सहायक जन सहायक (प्रारम्भिक) परीक्षा-2019, दिनांक 06 अक्टूबर, 2019 को निर्धारित की गयी थी, किन्तु दिनांक 05 अक्टूबर, 2019 को राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा मंगला गुप्त कार्यक्रम निर्धारित किये जाने की बुद्धिगत सूक्त परीक्षा तिथि परिवर्तित कर दी गयी है। परिवर्तित कार्यक्रमानुसार सहायक जन सहायक (प्रारम्भिक) परीक्षा-2019, दिनांक 03 नवम्बर, 2019 (रविवार) को पूर्णतः 1000 बजे से मध्यरात 12:00 बजे तक आयोजित की जायेगी।

उत्तराखण्ड केन्द्र वर्य अगामी अगस्त प्रवेश-पत्र दिनांक 19 अक्टूबर, 2019 (रविवार) से आयोग की वेबसाइट www.ukpsc.gov.in से डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। जहाँ जम्मावर्षी को कागद द्वारा प्रवेश से कोई सुचना/प्रवेश-पत्र भ्रमित नहीं किये जायेंगे। (राजेश्वर कुमार) सचिव।

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice
The Div. Ry-Manager/P(Moradabad) for and on behalf of president of India invites sealed tender for the following work which will be received up to 14.00 hrs and will be opened at 16.00 hrs on the same date as mentioned in the tender. It is on the date of opening tender it happens to be holiday, the tender will be opened on the next working day at the same time. **Name of work:** Parking Contract for Cycle/Scooter Stand in Northern Railway, DRM Office, Moradabad **Reserved License Fee for one year:** Rs. 2,49,480/- **Earnest Money:** Earnest money will be 10% of quoted amount in the shape of demand draft or D.D drawn on any Nationalized bank in favour of Senior Divisional Finance Manager, Northern Railway, Moradabad **Date of opening:** 08.08.2019 **Note:** - Minimum license fee per month for the second year will be 05% increased by first year MLP per month value (2,49,480/- x 05%) or the value quoted by highest bidder for this year with 05% license, whichever is higher will be considered as the MLP per month for the second year. Tender and tender forms can be had from the office of C/Div/General/DRM Office, Moradabad on the working day from 10 hrs to 15 hrs on payment in cash of Rs. 1000/- plus Rs. 500/- if required by post (Not Refundable). Tender documents are available on Northern Railway website i.e. www.indianrailways.gov.in and the same can be downloaded. Tender will not be opened after 12.00 hrs on the day of opening of tender. The total earnest money is to be deposited in favour of Sr. Div. Finance Manager, N.R.Wy. Moradabad and should be issued by scheduled/authorized bank. The deposit should be attached with the tender bank guarantee will be accepted as earnest money. Cost of tender forms will not be refunded. 1. **Special condition of NGCs:** If any registered NGO participates in the above tender, then on security amount is to be deposited by the NGO as per special conditions but Earnest money is to be deposited. The other terms and conditions will remain same. 2. Incomplete tender documents will not be acceptable, if any page found unsigned, the tender is liable to be rejected. **No.DPO-II/Parking Contract/2019** **Date :** 07.2019 3084/19
Serving Customers With A Smile

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED GIRL



General public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely:** Sweta, **D/o Madav, R/o 69 T Hut Ganda Nala, Gulabi Bagh, Delhi** **Age:** 16 years, **Height:** 4'8", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Build:** Medium, **Wearing:** Green Colour Suit & Salwar and Chappal in feet has been kidnapped since 22.04.2019 from the area of

PS Gulabi Bagh.
In this regard a **FIR No. 47/19 u/s 363 IPC** dated 05.05.2019 has been registered at **P.S. Gulabi Bagh, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Website: cbi.nic.in **P.S. Gulabi Bagh, Delhi**
Fax: 011-24368639 **Ph. 011-23651692**
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 **DP/33/N/19**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that **Dalip @ Chhotu, S/o Pashu Pati R/o H.No.101, Gali No.2, Vill-Sherpur, Khajuri Khas, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **EFIR No. 756/19 u/s 379/411/328/34 IPC, P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Dalip @ Chhotu cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Dalip @ Chhotu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Dalip @ Chhotu of **FIR No. 756/19 u/s 379/411/328/34 IPC, P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **01.11.2019**.
By Order,
Sh. Muneesh Garg
Metropolitan Magistrate-003, Room No.22,
DP/7325/NE/19 - (Court Matter)
Karkardoma Courts, Delhi

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
New Himrus Building, Circular Road, SHIMLA –171001.

Open Public Auction of Industrial Plots
In HPSIDC Industrial Estate, Darni, Tehsil Baddi, Distt. Solan (HP).
Place of Auction: Office of Executive Engineer, HPSIDC Industrial Area, Baddi, Distt. Solan (HP).
On 01.10.2019 at 11.30 AM
DETAILS OF INDUSTRIAL PLOTS FOR AUCTION AT HPSIDC INDUSTRIAL ESTATE DARNI:

PLOT Nos.	86/1 & 86/2	86/3	86/4 & 86/5	86/6
TENTATIVE AREA (Sq. Mtrs.)	500 Each (2 Plots)	595	1000 Each (2 Plots)	1867

The reserve price of Industrial plots is Rs. 4,000/- per Sq.M. As per decision of the State Government, permission u/s 118 of the HP Tenancy & Land Reforms Act, 1972 shall deemed to have been granted in respect of the above plots since these are being allotted by the HPSIDC. Other terms and conditions of auction including procedure for registration & participation in auction, schedule of payments of the auctioned plots, permissible industries and Rules Governing allotment of plots in Industrial Estate, Darni (Baddi) may be seen in the office of the Executive Engineer, HPSIDC Limited, HPSIDC Industrial Area, Baddi, Distt. Solan (HP) before or at the time of auction and shall form part of the auction. These can also be seen and print-out taken from Corporation's website: www.hpsidc.nic.in. The successful bidder(s) shall have to deposit 10% of bid amount by Electronic Fund Transfer (RTGS) or by DD drawn in favour of HPSIDC payable at Baddi/ Shimla at the fall of hammer. In the event of the Corporation not receiving balance payments by following due dates, the 10% bid amount deposited at the time of auction shall stand forfeited:

	30% of the cost of plot on or before	30.11.2019
	30% of the cost of plot on or before	31.01.2020
	Balance 30% of the cost of plot on or before	31.03.2020

The Auction Committee reserves the right to accept/ reject any bid or withdraw any plot from auction at its discretion without assigning any reasons thereof.
Tel. Nos.Head Office, Shimla: 0177-2621426/ 2624059/ 2624751 Fax No. 0177-2624278
Baddi Office : 01795-244148/ 246148, 94182-68800
E mail: hpsidc@rediffmail.com, hpsidcsml@gmail.com & hpsidcbaddi@gmail.com
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Sri Lanka will tour India in January to play three Twenty20Is, replacing suspended Zimbabwe. The ICC suspended Zimbabwe in July as the country's cricket administration was not free from government interference.

‘Surprised’ CGF says November meeting with IOA crucial

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

COMMONWEALTH GAMES Federation (CGF) chief executive David Grevenberg said on Wednesday he was “a bit disappointed and surprised” at Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president Narinder Batra’s suggestion that India withdraw permanently from the multi-discipline event.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* over phone, Grevenberg said, in the light of the IOA chief’s statements, the meeting between the two bodies in Delhi on November 14 will be “more important than ever”. Batra had told this paper on Tuesday that instead of boycotting a one-off edition (Birmingham 2022), India should consider pulling out of the CWG for good, saying the Games were a “waste of time and money”, and a symbol of “colonialism” while questioning their relevance.

“I’m a bit disappointed and surprised (to read the comments). I appreciate the frank-

ness and openness. Clearly, we have a lot to talk about. The approach will be ‘respect, listen, learn and contribute’. The meeting in November is now more important than ever,” Grevenberg said.

The IOA executive board is likely to discuss Batra’s proposal during their meeting next month. If he manages to build consensus, the Olympic body will discuss the issue with the government before taking it up with the CGF, when its officials visit Delhi in November.

Batra’s comments drew a lot of flak from the athletes but the sports ministry and national federations chose not to react immediately. “We haven’t received any such proposal or suggestion from the IOA. This, from what we understand, is the IOA president’s personal view right now. If they formally decide anything and bring it to us, then we will see what will be the way forward,” a sports ministry official said.

The IOA and CGF have been at loggerheads for quite some time after the organisers of the 2022 Games excluded shooting from its programme. Consequently, the IOA

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DAVID GREVENBERG,
CEO, COMMONWEALTH GAMES FEDERATION

took an unprecedented step to propose a complete boycott of the Birmingham CWG. Earlier this month, sports minister Kiren Rijiju wrote to his counterpart in the British government to seek his personal intervention in the issue. However, there has been no response from the British government yet.

Grevenberg will accompany CGF president Louise Martin for the meeting in November. He said the visit will give him “a chance to understand India’s ambition in the Commonwealth”

and hope to ensure the country does have a “leadership role” in the association.

He, however, ruled out the possibility of shooting being reinstated at this stage. Instead, he said the CGF will support British Shooting’s idea of conducting Commonwealth Shooting Championships simultaneously.

“The programme is what it is today. These are the decisions in our constitution. This is not your money or my money, this is the British government’s money. This decision wasn’t taken by one person. We understand British Shooting is looking to host Commonwealth Shooting Championship and we are supportive of that,” Grevenberg said. “We need to have a very good conversation to know how ISSF can develop shooting in the Commonwealth. We are here to work in collaboration.”

Shooting has been contested at every Commonwealth Games since Kingston 1966, with the exception of Edinburgh 1970. The sport has been the source of one-fourth of India’s medals at the CWG. Out of the 504 medals, India has won at the Games – includ-

ing 181 gold – 134 have come from shooting (63 gold, 44 silver and 27 bronze). Only Australia have won more.

India have finished among the top five nations in the medals tally in every edition of the CWG since the turn of the century. Without shooting, the country can fall to eighth place or even lower, according to IOA estimates. The sport, however, is not a part of the core programme of the CWG, which means a host nation can decide if it wants to include it in the event or not.

“The optional sports are very clearly mentioned in the CGF constitution, which was approved by our members. India was in the room and voted for it in 2015, when the bylaws were reaffirmed. I look forward to meeting Dr Batra, clarify and come to some accord on shooting.”

Grevenberg, meanwhile, rejected Batra’s claims that the CWG is no longer relevant. “Modern Commonwealth is relevant than before. It is a way to go beyond the shared colonial history and implement values of peace, prosperity and human rights,” he said.

Athletes react to Batra’s proposal with anger, call it ‘unacceptable’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

THE ATHLETES reacted with anger but the officialdom chose to weigh its words before responding to Indian Olympic Association chief Narinder Batra’s assertion that the Commonwealth Games is a waste of time and the country should consider a permanent pullout. “It is not acceptable,” said one of India’s currently most successful table tennis players G Sathiyam, who claimed two silvers and a bronze in the 2018 edition in Gold Coast.

The shooting fraternity chose to sidestep queries on Batra’s comment but others were upfront. Boxing star Vijender Singh, who is the first and only male pugilist with an Olympic medal, said Batra’s statement is heartbreaking as it undermines athletes’ hard work.

“It is heartbreaking. By this logic, India should not send teams to invitational tournaments either because the level of competition is not like the Olympics or the world championship even there,” said the boxer who has two silver and a bronze from the three CWGs he competed in. “Why belittle the athletes’ achievements? And in any case, CWG has strong boxing nations such as England and Ireland in fray,” he added.

The 2014 Glasgow CWG gold-medallist shuttler Parupalli Kashyap also differed with Batra, who also heads the International Hockey Federation (FIH). “It is ridiculous to think of boycotting the Commonwealth Games. I don’t think the standard is low. I didn’t have it easy when I beat all these players during the 2010 edition (when he won bronze) and the 2014 Games,” he recalled. “It is not like we are winning all the gold medals. Even in badminton, there are teams like Malaysia, England who are tough.”

In fact, 2010 CWG gold-medallist discus thrower Krishna Poonia said the Commonwealth competition in athletics is stiffer than the Asian Games, which is generally perceived to be tougher by the sporting fraternity. “For athletics, CWG is world class, the competition is of higher level than the Asian Games,” she said.

Two-time CWG gold-medallist weightlifter Sathish Sivalingam said a medal at the Games provides job security to a lot of athletes and that shouldn’t be taken away. “I am completely against the pullout. The Commonwealth Games are a big event for us. Medal-winning performances in the CWG bring a lot of incentives like jobs and money etc. So for us, this competition is important,” he said.

Former India hockey captain Zafar Iqbal, who was part of the 1980 Olympic gold medal-winning team, was surprised by Batra’s comment. “That’s a ridiculous statement coming from a man who is holding numerous important positions in national as well as international sports federations,” he said. “Commonwealth Games is the biggest competition after Olympics in terms of participation of countries. 72 countries took part in the last Commonwealth Games. And if you talk about hockey, all top nations like Australia, New Zealand, and Great Britain are there.”

A more guarded response came from the Wrestling federation. The sport contributes massively to India’s medal tally at CWGs and its President Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh said the grapplers are eager to continue at the quadrennial showpiece. “The general view of the wrestling fraternity is that the athletes want to compete, whatever the tournament is,” he said.

But there were also voices who agreed with Batra. Former Archery Association secretary-general Paresh Nath Mukherjee said, “there can’t be a bigger truth” than what the IOA chief has dared to say. “He has hit the nail on the head. Commonwealth Games has no relevance in the Olympics. It has no value and only poor and foolish countries like us make such hype about CWG. It’s nothing but a waste of money,” he said.

It is heartbreaking. By this logic, India should not send teams to invitational tournaments either because the level of competition is not like the Olympics or the world championship even there.

VIJENDER SINGH

Did BCCI advice land Dravid in conflict mess?

NCA head coach says he was told by the board that a ‘leave of absence’ letter from India Cements would free him of conflict of interest

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 25

A DAY before he is set to depose before BCCI’s ethics officer, Rahul Dravid said he had followed the BCCI’s suggestion to handle the conflict-of-interest matter before taking up the job as Head Coach at the National Cricket Academy.

Dravid said he was told by BCCI that a ‘leave of absence’ letter from India Cements, where he has been a vice-president for a decade, was enough to take up the new job at NCA and that it would free him of conflict of interest, and the former cricketer did likewise.

“It is leave of absence which is what I have been asked to do at that stage. I will appear with my lawyer and represent my own case,” Dravid told *The Indian Express* when asked how he had dealt with the conflict-of-issue problem. He will depose before DK Jain, the BCCI ethics officer, in Mumbai on Thursday to explain the charges made by Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association life member Sanjeev Gupta.

“Just mere ‘leave without pay’ from India Cements will not save him from the clutches of Rule 38(4),” Gupta wrote in his complaint to the ethics officer.

Gupta had raised the issue as Dravid had been a vice-president with India Cements for more than a decade when he took up the NCA role. Gupta reckoned that it was a violation of BCCI rules which state that an individual can’t hold two posts while being an employee of the cricket board and since India Cements owns IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings, Gupta believed Dravid couldn’t take up the NCA job.

CoA on CoI

The court-appointed Committee of Administrators came to Dravid’s defence and argued that the legendary batsman doesn’t fall under the conflict-of-interest rule. In a recent Idea Exchange conducted by this newspaper, CoA chief Vinod Rai was asked about conflict of interest and several complaints against cricketers in this regard. In particular about how Sourav Ganguly is the president of Cricket Association of Bengal and also a commentator, and Dravid employed with India Cements.

“In his report, Justice Lodha has given about 20 examples of conflict of interest. So the issues are very clear. We abide by them a 100 per cent. Since you took certain names. Sourav Ganguly is in conflict since he is president of the Cricket Association of Bengal. No dispute about it. Rahul Dravid was (in breach) because he was employed by India Cements. He has been made to stop that. You can check up. There is a resignation.”

But on Wednesday, Rai said, “He (Dravid) has submitted leave of absence. I did not say he has sent resignation. I gave two examples of two senior appointees.”

The BCCI had in June asked Dravid to take up a bigger role at the NCA and work closely with the National Men’s and Women’s Head Coaches and coaches of India Developmental teams – including India A, India Under-19, and Under-23.

In a letter issued by Indian Cements to Dravid and accessed by this paper, the company has granted leave of absence to him. Dravid had written to India Cements on July



Rahul Dravid is set to depose before the BCCI Ethics Officer on Thursday.

‘It is leave of absence which is what I have been asked to do at that stage. I will appear with my lawyer and represent my own case.’

2 asking for a No-Objection Certificate.

“By means of this letter, we state and confirm that we have No Objection to your proposed contract with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in respect of the position of Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy, Bangalore as described in your letter. We hereby grant you leave of absence from your employment during the term and tenure of your engagement with the BCCI, for an initial period of two years. We request you to notify us of any updates or changes in term and tenure of your BCCI contract and the said leave of absence shall be appropriately reviewed,” India Cements Senior General Manager (Human Resources) G Vijayan stated in the letter given to Dravid.

Injury picked up during WC claimed to be reason behind Dhoni’s unavailability

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 25

MS DHONI is injured, which is the reason behind his unavailability at the moment. It is learnt that Dhoni went to the World Cup carrying a back niggle that got aggravated during the course of the tournament. Also, during the World Cup, he picked up a wrist injury. The former India captain is expected to be fit by November, BCCI sources told *The Indian Express*.

Dhoni wasn’t part of India’s limited-overs squad for the tour of West Indies. He wasn’t included in the team for the recently concluded three-match home T20 international series against South Africa either.

Dhoni, an honorary Lieutenant Colonel, meanwhile, had a two-week stint with the Para Regiment of the Indian Army in Kashmir



MS Dhoni hasn’t played since the World Cup.

after the World Cup. Then, he was said to be on a sabbatical. Even at 38 years of age, Dhoni is one of the fittest cricketers in the Indian team.

But a back injury had been troubling him for over a season now. Last year, after an IPL match against Kings XI Punjab at Mohali,

where he scored an unbeaten 79, the Chennai Super Kings captain had spoken about the injury during post-match presentation. “It’s bad. How bad it is, I don’t know.” This year, during the IPL, Dhoni had said his back was holding up. “The back is holding up, it’s not getting worse, with the World Cup coming up, can’t afford that, because that’s too important.”

The Indian team management has dropped a hint that they are not ruling out the ex-skipper yet. Ahead of the first T20I against South Africa in Dharamsala, Virat Kohli had spoken about the “alignment” between his predecessor and the team. “One great thing about him is that, he thinks for Indian cricket. And whatever we (team management) think, he is on the same page. The alignment is there. The kind of mindset he has had about grooming youngsters and giving them opportunities, and he is still the same person,” Kohli had said.

Hazare round-up: Saini takes four, Delhi share points

Vadodara: India pacer Navdeep Saini helped Delhi bundle out Haryana for 154 but rain forced them to share points for the second day in a row in the Vijay Hazare Trophy Group B on Wednesday. The match began as a 34-overs-a-side contest but the weather playing spoilsport soon after Delhi dismissed Haryana in 32.4 overs with Saini taking four wickets for 36 runs in 6.4 overs. Pramod Chandila (58 off 57 balls) was the top-scorer for Haryana. Delhi could bat for only 1.3 overs before rain arrived. Both teams got two points each for the abandoned game. Haryana had India leggie Yuzvendra Chahal in the playing eleven while Delhi had Rishabh Pant, who has copped criticism of late for his poor returns in India colours.

BRIEF SCORES: Haryana 154 all out in 32.4 overs (Pramod Chandila 58 of 57 balls with 3x4 & 3x6; Navdeep Saini 4/36) vs Delhi

6/0 in 1.3 overs. **Points:** Haryana 2, Delhi 2

Mavi’s heroics to no avail

Promising speedster Shivam Mavi helped put the skids under Baroda, but rain ensured Uttar Pradesh had to be satisfied with just two points after a no result. Mavi’s accounted for three main batsmen while conceding just nine runs in 4.3 overs and Baroda were reeling at 91 for eight when play was called off.

BRIEF SCORES: Baroda 91/8 in 20.3 overs (Krunal Pandya 36 in 34 balls with 3x4; Mavi 3/9) vs UP. **Points:** Baroda 2, UP 2

Gill falls cheaply

In a 42-overs-a-side match, Himachal Pradesh restricted Punjab to a moderate score but rain ensured there was no result. Young opener Shubman Gill, picked for the South Africa series, made 23 as Punjab strug-

gled to 169 for nine. **BRIEF SCORES:** Punjab 169/9 in 42 overs (Anmol Malhotra 36, Abhishek Sharma 29, Shubman Gill 23; Rishi Dhawan 4/43) vs HP 22/1 in 8 overs. **Points:** HP 2, Punjab 2

Tamil Nadu thrash Services

Jaipur: Skipper Dinesh Karthik led from the front as Tamil Nadu thrashed Services by 212 runs in their Elite Group C game on Wednesday. This was Tamil Nadu’s second successive win after defeating Rajasthan on Tuesday. Put in to bat at the Savaii Mansingh stadium, Tamil Nadu posted a healthy 294/8 with Karthik top-scoring with 95. Their bowlers then bundled out Services for a paltry 82.

BRIEF SCORES: TN 294/8 (Dinesh Karthik 95, C Hari Nishaanath 73) beat Services 82 (K Vignesh 5/41, M Mohammed 3/10) by 212 runs. **Points:** TN 4; Services 0.

Railways too good for Bihar
Arindam Ghosh missed a ton by four runs before leg-spinner Karn Sharma grabbed three wickets as Railways defeated Bihar by 84 runs via the VJD method.

BRIEF SCORES: Railways 289/6 in 50 overs (Ghosh 96, Rajput 70; Vivek Kumar 3/55) beat Bihar 155/6 in 43 overs (Rathour 86 not out; Karn Sharma 3/23) by 84 runs (VJD method). **Points:** Railways 4; Bihar 0.

Tripura upset MP

Tanmay Mishra hit a century to help Tripura thrash MP by 104 runs via the VJD method.

BRIEF SCORES: Tripura 268/8 in 50 overs (Mishra 102 in 101 balls with 10x4 & 2x6, Milind Kumar 41) beat Madhya Pradesh 86/6 in 20 overs (Rajat Patidar 41) by 104 runs (VJD method). **Points:** Tripura 4; MP 0. **PTI**

Pak coach Misbah says top Lankan players should not have pulled out

Karachi: Pakistan’s head coach and chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq says Sri Lanka’s top players should have come for the limited-overs series in Pakistan after being assured of head-of-state-like security by the government. Ten of Sri Lanka’s best players pulled out of the three-match ODI series and three Twenty20s in Pakistan due to security concerns – including ODI captain Dimuth Karunaratne and Twenty20 captain Lasith Malinga. It is the first time since Sri Lanka’s team bus was attacked by terrorists in Lahore in 2009 that a foreign team will conduct a two-week tour of Pakistan. Major teams have avoided Pakistan since that ambush, which killed eight people and injured several players.

“Being a cricketer everyone’s life is very precious,” Misbah said on Wednesday. “We

are also here, rest of the players are also here ... I think they should have had considered it when the government is giving assurances.”

The current tour, which begins with the first ODI on Friday, also looked in doubt after the Sri Lankan cricket board said it had been warned by its government about a possible terrorist threat. But it finally got the go-ahead from the SLC after Pakistan’s government promised that the army would coordinate the security over the two-week long visit. “Pakistan’s government is trying its best, the Pakistan Board is trying its best and we need the support of the world,” Misbah said. “No doubt what happened to them (was unfortunate), such things do happen in other parts of the world, but you go out and play there. They should come here too, what’s the problem with that.” **AP**



BRIDGING THE GULF

Qatar's capital Doha will host the maiden World Athletics Championships in the Middle East. Above is the aerial view of the Khalifa stadium. Reuters

World's gaze on Doha

The premier athletics championship will be a test of Qatar's credentials as super hosts

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
DOHA, SEPTEMBER 25

QATAR IS preparing to welcome thousands of fans and competitors for the World Athletics Championships starting Friday, an event seen as a staging post towards the 2022 football World Cup. The 10-day event in the capital Doha will be a key test ahead of the football extravaganza in the gas-rich Gulf monarchy, although the track and field showcase will play out on a far smaller scale.

World Cup organisers and football fans will be anxious to see if Qatar can overcome problems encountered at a recent World Cup qualifying fixture, stubborn Doha traffic and unfinished public transport to deliver a smooth championships. An ongoing diplomatic spat between Qatar and several neighbours could threaten to overshadow the competition, as well as possibly dent the numbers of spectators and competitors.

One of the key concerns is security. Qatari pro-government media has heavily publicised recent training exercises staged by the US FBI in Doha to equip Qatari officers with "crisis and disaster management" skills. The city was ranked the world's second safest by CEOWORLD magazine last month behind Abu Dhabi, capital of regional rival the United Arab Emirates.

However the Worlds hosts will be looking to avoid a repeat of chaotic scenes that played out during a World Cup qualifying fixture between Qatar and India earlier this month. Indian fans with tickets were unable to access the venue and a surge of fans attempted to storm the ground during half-time as security staff struggled to bring the situation under control.

Not far behind is heat. Ahead of the open-

NAZAROV OUT OF WORLDS IN DOPING CASE

Doha The Olympic champion in the hammer throw, Dilshod Nazarov, is out of the world championships over a failed doping test. The Athletics Integrity Unit, which oversees doping cases in track and field, says Nazarov is provisionally suspended after a retest of his sample from the 2011 world championships came back positive for the banned steroid turinabol.

Nazarov's 2016 gold is Tajikistan's only Olympic victory as an independent nation. He was a world championship silver medalist the year before. The AIU also says it has suspended Albert Rop, a Kenyan-born runner who competes for Bahrain and holds the Asian record in the 5,000 meters. He's

ing ceremony, hundreds of volunteers were marshalled around Doha's Khalifa stadium by police while technicians hoisted vast lighting rigs into place in the venue's intricate lattice-work roof. Chief organiser Dahlan al-Hamad said at a recent sports integrity event in Doha that "Qatar is 100 percent ready for the championship -- we are very excited". The stadium, which will host most events, was first opened in 1976 but totally overhauled ahead of a relaunch in 2017 and has since successfully hosted Diamond League events. The city's Corniche waterfront will be used for the marathon, being staged for the first time at midnight when the temperature will be lower.

The route will also host the men's and women's 20 kilometre race walks and the mixed 50 kilometre race walk. Construction



accused of breaking so-called whereabouts rules requiring athletes to make themselves available for drug testing.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

teams worked around the clock to finish assembling the elaborate scaffold towers that line the route's central reservation and will support floodlights for the midnight marathon. Qatar has invested heavily in transport infrastructure since being named 2022 World Cup hosts in 2010. It now boasts one of the world's largest hub airports and Qatar Airways is currently rated the best by an industry body.

Transportation woes

But it is unclear if the multi-billion-dollar metro system's yellow line will be ready in time to shuttle spectators to the two new stations near the Khalifa stadium, al-Aziziyah and Sports City, both of which are shaped like Bedouin tents. In the absence of a rail option, fans will access the stadium by road. The area

is already popular with motorists and home to a mall, raising the prospect of traffic jams ahead of popular events. Officials were pushing to overhaul several key bottlenecks and junctions across the city ahead of the high-point of the athletics calendar.

While the Khalifa stadium can hold 46,000 people, it will be configured for fewer fans during the World Championships with organisers hoping to attract around 14,000 spectators to the highest profile events. Tickets are "selling well" according to an official, and members of Qatar's expatriate work force -- Kenyans and Americans in particular -- are expected to turn out.

It remains to be seen though how many fans from neighbouring Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates will make it to Doha for the event. The three countries, along with Egypt, have enforced a boycott of Qatar since June 2017 and their citizens are technically banned from travelling to the peninsula state. The Riyadh-led coalition accuses Qatar of backing extremist groups and Iran, charges it denies -- raising the spectre that politics could partially overshadow the athletics. Nonetheless Saudi will send three athletes, Egypt five, the UAE one, and Bahrain 21 competitors in total.

Coe gets new term as IAAF chief, vows to reduce doping

Britain's Sebastian Coe was re-elected unopposed Wednesday as president of the IAAF for a second term following four years dominated by doping and the issue of gender. The former Olympic and world champion middle-distance runner became head of world athletics' governing body in 2015 and receives his second mandate just two days before the World Athletics Championships open in Doha.

Order of merit

In the post-Bolt era, track and field is in search of the next star who could be a big draw. At the World Championships, a bunch of upcoming athletes are poised to topple established names.



200m
NOAH LYLES,
Age 22, United States

The showdown took place at Shanghai in May, the first Diamond League of the season. The current star Christian Coleman was jolted by the emergence of Lyles on the track in the build-up and post race. Lyles gestured at the start line and fired an imaginary gun at the camera. He then went onto beat Coleman, someone who does not subscribe to antics. After coming into the race in the last 30 metres, Lyles also turned and looked at Coleman at the finish-line. Coleman took a potshot at Lyles on social media after the race.

"If your goal is to run fast in May to taunt and flex online then your priorities aren't straight," Coleman posted. Lyles later said it was Coleman who infuriated him by taking off his headphones and blasting music loudly in the call room. At Doha, Lyles who is known to back-flip after winning the race is likely to be in Coleman's face -- an upstart who has the swagger to stun established names and win the crowd over. He wouldn't run 100m, but it could be in the 200 where he could set the track ablaze. At the IAAF Diamond League meet in Lausanne, he clocked 19.50 seconds, the fourth-fastest timing ever.



100m/200m
DINA ASHER-SMITH
Age: 23, Great Britain

There is a tendency by the media and fans to hype up an athlete from this part of the world, but here is a genuine contender who could knock off the queens of women sprint events. Four years ago she had come close to finishing on the podium at the London World Championships, but she finished fourth in the 200 metre final. This year, she has laid down the marker by beating Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, the double Olympic champion and fastest woman in the world this year in the 100metres in Brussels last month. Asher-Smith is also the 100 and 200 metre European champion. But she will have her task cut out at Doha as two Jamaicans, Fraser-Pryce, gold medalist in 2008 and 2012, and Elaine Thompson, the winner of the 100m and 200m from the previous edition, will be breathing down her neck.

Fraser-Pryce, 32, has made a comeback after becoming a mother and won Diamond League meetings in Lausanne and London. Thompson, 27, won at the Diamond League at Paris. Asher-Smith has the fourth-best time of the year (10.93 seconds), after Thompson (10.73), Fraser Pryce (10.73) and United States's Sha'Carri Richardson (10.75).



Men's long jump
JUAN MIGUEL ECHEVARRIA
Age: 21, Cuba

At the last two major competitions -- the 2016 Olympics and the 2017 World Championships -- the men's long jump gold was won by United States' Jeff Henderson (8.38) and South Africa's Luvo Manyoga (8.48 metres). These were middling performances when it came to the world level as Mike Powell's record stands at 8.95 metres. But in the young Cuban, the world of track and field may have just discovered the next big star. In August, at the Zurich Diamond League, Echevarria produced a massive 8.65m after seemingly stuck at 8.30 and thereabouts this year. There was a 45-cm gap between the Cuban and the next best, South African Ruswahl Samaai.

Echevarria will start as the favourite and will look to help his country regain the glory days in the event when four-time gold medalist Ivan Pedroso reigned from 1995-

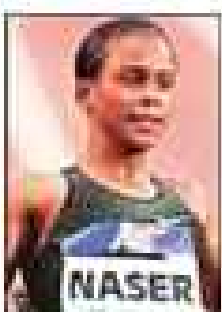
2001. He also has two massive jumps -- both wind-assisted -- 8.83 metres in Stockholm and 8.92 in Havana. Manyoga and Samaai will be his two main threats in an event, which is likely to witness the return of 8.50-plus jumps at the world stage.



Women's 3000m steeplechase.
BEATRICE CHEPKOECH
Age: 28, Kenya

She may not be as young as some of the others tipped to become next-generation champions, but for a country which is still overcoming the taint of doping, Chepkoech provides a hope of restoration of pride. Moreover, going by the average age of middle-distance champions, she is in the prime of her career. Two years ago in London she had missed the water jump and had to turn back and clear it again and hence missed vital seconds which cost her a podium finish. However, on current form, she looks poised to win her first major gold. She has won 15 of her last 17 races and has victories at the African Championships and the Continental Cup but is not invincible. Chepkoech lost to her compatriot Norah Jeruto at the Diamond League in Oslo.

She is the only athlete in the field to register a sub-9 minute time in 2019 but in a tactical race like the steeplechase threats could lurk everywhere. One of these comes in the form of Bahrain's Winfred Yavi who won the gold in the 3000m steeplechase and 5000m at the Asian Championships, which was also held at the Khalifa Stadium in Doha.



Women's 400 metres
SALWA EID NASER
Age: 21, Bahrain

She is Nigerian born and had gone by the name Ebelechukwu Agbapuonwu before shifting allegiance and any country would have loved to have an athlete like her in its ranks. Graceful and powerful on track, Naser is a world-class athlete for whom no lead is unconquerable. Indian fans would remember her schooling Under-20 World Champion Hima Das in the final of the 400 metres at the Asian Games.

At Doha, Naser will face a much sterner test in the form of Shaunae Miller-Uibo, the Olympic 400m champion. At the Diamond League in Zurich earlier this month, Naser clocked 50.24 seconds and won the gold in the absence of Miller-Uibo. Naser and Miller-Uibo have battled to the wire before when the latter clocked her personal best of 48.97 at the Diamond League in Monaco with Naser clipping at her heels with 49.08.



Men's shot put
KONRAD BUKOWIECKI
Age 21: Poland

The men's shot put will be one of the most high-quality finals at the World Championships as the field holds nine athletes with a personal best over 22 metres. The big boys, of course, are also in terrific form, including defending champion New Zealand's Tom Walsh who won the Diamond League in Paris with a throw of 22.44 metres. Olympic Champion United States's Ryan Crouser has a world-leading throw of 22.74m while Brazil's Darlen Romani has also impressed with 22.44. Polish Bukowiecki joined the 22-metre club last year and his recent form indicates that he could challenge the more established names. The sequence of his most recent throws are 21.91m, 21.92m, 21.99m and 22.25m -- a personal best effort in a meeting in Chorzow just 10 days ago, where he defeated Walsh.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

[SPORTS BAR]



Kyrgios resorts to underarm serve in loss

Australian Nick Kyrgios served underarm once again but the fiery Australian fell away dramatically in the second set in a limp first-round exit at the Zhuhai Championships on Wednesday. The 24-year-old Australian, who has been accused of tanking matches in the past, led the veteran Italian Andreas Seppi 4-1 in the first set, only to go down 7-6 (7/5), 6-1. Kyrgios, who has had numerous run-ins with tennis authorities down the years, elicited a few giggles from a sparse crowd in southern China with an underarm serve in the first set. Coasting 3-1 and 40-0 up, the 27th-ranked Kyrgios served weakly into the net, before surging into a 4-1 lead.

Halep's woes continue with Wuhan retirement

Wimbledon champion Simona Halep was left disappointed Wednesday after suffering a fresh injury setback in China that forced her to retire from the Wuhan Open with a lower back problem. Halep said the problem that caused her to quit her third-round match felt different to the herniated disc she had suffered at the China Open in Beijing a year ago which brought an early end to the Romanian's 2018 season. "It's lower back. I think it's more muscle, but I don't know yet because I haven't checked it properly," said two-time Grand Slam champion Halep. The world number six led Elena Rybakina by a break and looked on her way to win the first set before her Kazakh opponent drew level.

Advani-Mehta pair wins Snooker title

The Indian duo of Pankaj Advani and Aditya Mehta overcame a tough Thai team to emerge world champions in the IBSF World Snooker Team event, here on Wednesday. This takes Advani's world title tally to a phenomenal 23 while Aditya claimed his maiden at a time when his future is being doubted due to health issues. For Advani, this win has ensured that his name is now there on every IBSF world title on offer. He had won the world billiards event here last week. A great start to the final was delivered by Mehta.



World Champion PV Sindhu lost to USA's Beiwen Zhang 7-21 24-22 15-21.

Sindhu, Sai Praneeth and Saina crash out

Parupalli Kashyap was the lone Indian to survive in the singles event after star shuttlers PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal and B Sai Praneeth all made first round exits at the Korea Open badminton tournament here on Wednesday. Kashyap registered a comfortable 21-16 21-16 over Lu Chia Hung of Chinese Taipei in a men's singles match match that lasted 42 minutes. The first round casualties for Indian included World Champion Sindhu, who bowed out of the tournament after going down 7-21 24-22 15-21 at the hands of USA's Beiwen Zhang. Sai Praneeth and Saina -- both retired hurt in their respective first round matches. World Championships bronze-medallist Sai Praneeth was trailing 9-21 7-11 when he conceded the match to fifth-seeded Anders Antonsen of Denmark due to an ankle injury. London Olympic bronze medallist Saina was trailing 21-19, 18-21 and 1-8 against South Korea's Kim Ga Eun when she was forced to retire. Saina's husband and personal coach Kashyap said she retired because of gastroenteritis problem.

Saqib fires 61 to take three-shot lead in Jaipur

Bengaluru's Syed Saqib Ahmed fired a blistering nine-under-61 in round two to take a three-shot lead at the TATA Steel Jaipur Open here on Wednesday. Saqib ended the day with a total of 15-under-125 at the Rambagh Golf Club. Saqib, a former winner on the PGTI, thus equaled Vikrant Chopra's record for the lowest score after two rounds at a PGTI event. Noida-based Vikrant had also achieved the feat at the Rambagh Golf Club during the inaugural Jaipur Open in 2017. Round one leader Abhinav Lohan of the DLF Golf & Country Club, Gurugram, who had previously shot a 61 on Tuesday, came up with a 67 on day two to drop to second place at 12-under-128.

Emerson out until October with thigh tear

Chelsea left back Emerson Palmieri will be out until the middle of October after sustaining a thigh injury during Sunday's 2-1 Premier League defeat by leaders Liverpool, manager Frank Lampard has said. Italian international Palmieri, who has started five out of six league games this season, was joined on the treatment table by fellow defender Andreas Christensen after the Danish centre back suffered a knee problem in the same match. "Emerson now won't be back until the other side of the international break (during mid-October)," Lampard told a news conference.



Mo Salah, Egypt fall out again with FIFA

Egypt's football association has asked FIFA for clarification after its vote for national icon Mohamed Salah was dropped from the final tally for the world's best player award. The results are based on the votes of national coaches, team captains and members of the press in selecting their top three players of the year. When FIFA released its results, Egypt was curiously absent from the final vote count. In comments online blame was aimed at Egypt's football federation for failing to ensure Salah would be given the maximum chance in all votes, although he eventually finished fourth, 20 votes behind winner Lionel Messi. Salah hinted at his disappointment through his social media activity, changing his Twitter bio to say he only plays for Liverpool.



Uruguay stun Fiji in Kamaishi shock

South American minnows deliver the first upset of this Rugby World Cup with a stunning win over an error-prone Fiji

URUGUAY PULLED off one of the Rugby World Cup's largest upsets when it beat Fiji 30-27 in a match laden with significance for the disaster-ravaged town in which it was played on Wednesday. Only days after coming close to a shock result when it led Australia 14-12 at halftime before losing 39-21, 10th-ranked Fiji found itself on the wrong end of a larger surprise, going down for the first time in four meetings to the 19th-ranked Los Teros.

Fiji scored first but Uruguay scored three first-half tries to lead 24-12 by halftime. Flyhalf Felipe Berchesi kicked two penalties to keep his team in front throughout the second half, finishing with three conversions and three penalties for 15 points. His last penalty, in the 75th minute, gave Uruguay an eight-point lead and proved decisive in securing only its third win at a World Cup, its first in 16 years. Uruguay's other wins were over Georgia and Spain.

"I was thinking to myself to treat it just like in training, as if the stadium was empty," Berchesi said. "I had cramps in my legs so I focused on kicking like I do in training, and aiming for the middle, inside the posts. It went through, luckily." Fiji threw everything at Uruguay in an effort to wrest back control of the game in the second half but its most ambitious attempts failed through passing and handling errors and it paid dearly for poor goalkicking by Josh Matavei and Ben Volavola. A try after the fulltime siren to Niko Matawalu — his second of the match, which typically went unconverted — was enough to earn Fiji two losing bonus points. But the result severely jeopardized its hopes of winning a place in the knockout rounds.

TODAY'S RESULT	
URUGUAY 30	FJI 27

3 This was Uruguay's third win at the World Cup — their previous victories having come against Spain and Georgia, making this their biggest scalp in the small Japanese seaside town of Kamaishi, which was devastated by the 2011 tsunami and earthquake.

"It's outstanding. It's a really good day for Uruguayan rugby today. I hope everybody could see that, and everybody joins to play rugby in Uruguay, we need more players...we're a really small union but we keep showing the world that we're in a good place and they have to support us because we've proved ourselves strong today."

FELIPE BERCHESEI,
PLAYER OF THE MATCH

Australia winger Hodge banned for dangerous tackle

HODGE'S NO-ARMS tackle caught the Fijian flanker in the head in the 26th minute of the Pool D opener in Sapporo on Saturday but the Wallabies back was cleared of an offence by the matchday officials. He was cited on Sunday and will now miss Australia's crunch clash with Six Nations champions Wales on Sunday as well as the matches against Uruguay on October 5 and Georgia on October 11.

World Rugby said in a statement that the committee had determined that Hodge should have been shown a red card but the punishment was halved



Uruguay is the youngest team in the tournament, an assembly of home-based players who are semi-professional and can't match the global stars Fiji has.

from six weeks because of his "exemplary disciplinary record, good character and conduct at the hearing".

Hodge, who may appeal the decision within 48 hours, will be free to play again in the knockout stages of the tournament should Australia progress.

Yato, who had been the most influential player on the pitch up to that point, missed the rest of the match and was forced to sit out Wednesday's game against Uruguay in Kamaishi to complete concussion protocols. The ruling that Hodge should have received a red card will be an embarrassment for World Rugby and there might be more on the way after Samoans Rey Lee-lo and Motu Matu'u were cited for dangerous high tackles on Wednesday.

Fans allowed to bring food after shortages at venues

FANS WILL now be able to bring food into World Cup stadiums in Japan after the organizing committee admitted that the service at some venues was "not befitting" that of a showpiece event.

There were lengthy queues for both food and beverages at stadiums during the opening weekend with some vendors completely running out of some food options.

In an unusual move for a major sporting event, the organisers will now allow fans to bring in "a reasonable amount of food" into the stadiums, starting with Monday's match between Wales and Georgia in Toyota City.



Organisers predicted up to 100,000 glasses of beer could be consumed at each match.

"The opening weekend has demonstrated that the level of service is not befitting that of a Rugby World Cup with some fans experiencing queuing delays and some vendors prematurely running out of some food options," the organisers said in a statement.

"With fan experience a major priority, the organising committee, in consultation with World Rugby, has taken the decision to allow fans to bring a reasonable amount of food into the venue for personal consumption from today."

"As per normal for a Rugby World Cup, fans will not be able to bring beverages into venues." It is normal for fans in Japan to be able to bring their own food, and in some cases beverages, into stadiums for sporting occasions but this was not the case for the opening seven matches across the World Cup's opening weekend.

Stadiums running out of food options comes despite years of planning and warnings from World Rugby specifically about the stocking of refreshment at stadiums.

Organisers say that the inclusion of beer hawkers bringing drinks to fans in their seats, another common feature of the Japanese sport viewing experience, has meant that the demand for beverages has been met.

"Beer and soft drinks provision has been significantly increased in venues, including the provision of free water stations, and is successfully meeting requirements," added the statement. Before the tournament began, organisers predicted up to 100,000 glasses of beers could be consumed at each match. **AGENCIES**



Bill posted his photo offering prayers alongside Ofa Tuungafasi.

Bill sorry for copyright breach in photo row

ALL BLACKS star Sonny Bill Williams has been forced to apologise to a Malaysian-based photographer after publishing a photo of himself on Instagram with the photographer's credit removed. When the photo, showing Williams and fellow All Black Muslim Ofa Tu'ungafasi praying before the Springboks Test, was posted on social media, it was quickly removed by Instagram citing copyright issues. Williams then directed a second message at Instagram questioning why the photo had been removed, asking: "Surely a simple picture of someone expressing their gratitude for what they've been blessed with is OK?". But on learning the fault lay with republishing the photo without crediting photographer Faiz Azizan, Williams was quick to repost the image on Instagram with Azizan's name included. "Asalamu'alaikum (peace be with you) brother, please forgive me for the misunderstanding," Williams said.

From sublime to ridiculous

Spurs' elimination from League Cup shows how far the team has fallen from last season's high of Champions League final

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 25

TOTTENHAM BROKE into English football's established elite through squad unity, the energy of youth and a common purpose created by manager Mauricio Pochettino. More than five years into Pochettino's tenure, that all looks to be slipping away. And he knows it.

A humiliating elimination by fourth-tier Colchester in the English League Cup via a penalty shootout on Tuesday prompted an honest reflection by Pochettino regarding the current dynamic inside his squad.

"Maybe our performances are good but you need this extra — which is mental — connection," the Argentine said. "It is energy to be all together, not to have different agendas in the squad. We need time again to build that togetherness that you need when you are competing at this level."

Pochettino spoke about needing time to get players "on the same page," about needing two transfer windows to "fix this type of situation and sort it." In essence, Pochettino is saying there are divisions in his squad, which is going to need to be refreshed, even rebuilt. Already the longest-serving manager in the Premier League working solely in the top flight, is Pochettino the man to carry out this job and inject some freshness? Spurs are in the midst of a long rut which, somewhat paradoxically, includes a spectacular run to the Champions League final where they lost to Liverpool in June.

Taking into account all matches since the middle of February, they have won eight of 26. This season, it is just two wins in its eight matches in all competitions, and the record includes a home loss to Newcastle, the squandering of a 2-0 lead to draw 2-2 against Olympiakos in the Champions League, and now an exit at the first hurdle of a cup competition at the expense of a team 71 places lower in English football's pyramid. The last away win in the league came on January 20, against a Fulham team headed for relegation.

Here's a look at key problems facing Pochettino:

SQUAD TENSIONS

It seems some players don't want to be at Tottenham anymore, and other senior members of the squad are unsettled. Christian Eriksen is an obvious example, having said in the offseason he was keen to "try something new" amid interest from Real Madrid. The Denmark playmaker who pulls everything together in midfield has only started four of Tottenham's eight games this season.

Like Eriksen, center backs Jan Vertonghen and Toby Alderweireld are in the final year of their contracts. Vertonghen, widely recognized as Tottenham's best defender, was left out of the team's first three league games.

Then there are England internationals Dele Alli and Eric Dier who are no longer flavor of the month. The slump of Alli, who used to strike up such a good relationship with Harry Kane up front, has been



A humiliating elimination by fourth-tier Colchester prompted an honest reflection by Pochettino regarding the current dynamic inside his squad. Reuters

marked, while Dier's first minutes of the season came against on Tuesday against Colchester. The closure of the European transfer window on Sept. 2 was supposed to unify an unsettled squad, ending uncertainty around players, but that doesn't appear the case.

MIDFIELD ISSUES

Back in the early days of Pochettino's reign, Tottenham — an underdog battling to mix it with country's biggest clubs — stood out because of the cohesion of its young, hungry squad but also the intensity of its team.

Pep Guardiola, for example, said he was blown away by the energy of Tottenham's suffocating press when he slipped to his first loss as Manchester City manager, 2-0 in October 2016 at the old White Hart Lane.

The current Tottenham team doesn't seem to have those qualities, with the center of midfield a particular problem for Pochettino. Moussa Dembele used to set the tone for Spurs with his technique, driving runs and intensity of press, and he had a great partnership with Vincent Wanyama.

Offseason signing Tanguy Ndombele might prove to be a like-for-like long-term replacement for Dembele, but Pochettino's preferred central midfield appears to be Moussa Sissoko and Harry Winks, who can't seem to control matches. Tottenham has already thrown away leads against Arsenal, Olympiakos and Leicester this season.

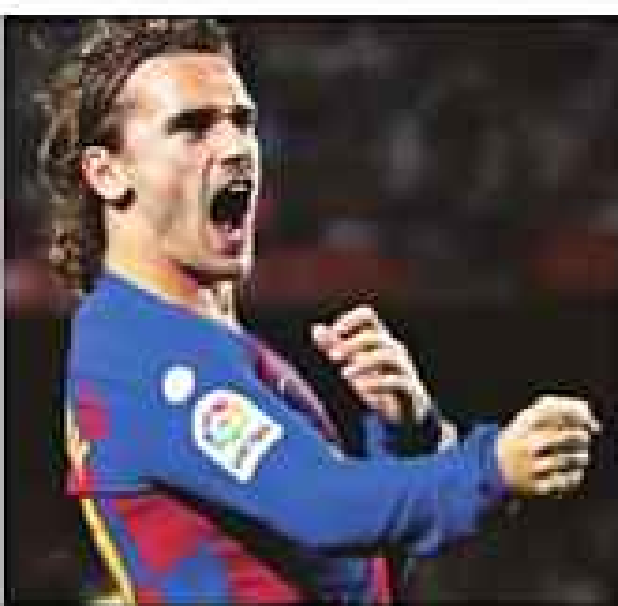
Win some, lose some for Barca

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
BARCELONA, SEPTEMBER 25

LIONEL MESSI endured yet more injury frustration after going off at half time against Villarreal but Barcelona gave their coach Ernesto Valverde some much-needed relief with a comfortable 2-1 victory. Messi received treatment in the first half for what looked like a problem with his left thigh and was then unable to continue after the interval, replaced by Ousmane Dembele on Tuesday.

His withdrawal will be a major concern for Barca, particularly given this was Messi's first start of the season after just recovering from a niggling calf injury sustained at the start of August. After the match, Valverde struck a note of calm. "When something happens to Messi, everyone stops, not only on the field, but in the stands as well," he said.

It's a minor problem in the adductor. "It is a small problem in the adductor and as a precaution we have decided not to risk it. In theory, it is nothing more but we will see tomorrow how it is." Barcelona visit Getafe in La Liga on Saturday before playing Inter Milan at home in the Champions League four days later. Certainly, they would have been eager to see Messi back in their line-up, having suffered a



Griezmann has scored three La Liga goals in six starts since joining Barcelona from Atletico Madrid. Reuters

humbling 2-0 loss at newly-promoted Granada last weekend, a result that left them with seven points from five games, their worst start to a season since 1995.

They arrived at Camp Nou with doubts hovering, particularly over Valverde, but delivered a far more convincing win than the scoreline suggested, thanks to early goals from Antoine Griezmann, his third of the season,

and Arthur Melo. "We are still far from our best but with matches everything will improve," said Griezmann.

Cazorla gives Villarreal hope

Santi Cazorla put Villarreal in touch on the stroke of half-time but in truth the visitors barely threatened thereafter, with Barcelona impressively composed when nerves might easily have taken over. It means Valverde's side climb to fourth in the table, one point behind Real Madrid and level on points with Atletico Madrid, who both play on Wednesday.

Villarreal's encouraging start stalls a little as they drop to eighth.

Granada, who backed up their shock win over Barca with a 1-1 draw at Real Valladolid, top the table, although both Athletic Bilbao and Real Madrid can move three points above them when they play their games on Wednesday. Barcelona started well, with Griezmann heading in after just six minutes, darting to the near post to flick home Messi's floated corner. The pair shared a celebratory hug too.

Seven minutes later, there was a second and another goal almost from nothing. Arthur collected the ball 30 yards out and harpooned a shot straight past Sergio Asenjo and into the top right-hand corner.

Ferrari can show their resurgence is real in Russia

REUTERS
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 25

FORMULA ONE champions Mercedes have won every Russian Grand Prix since the first at Sochi's Olympic Park in 2014 but that could all change on Sunday. Ferrari are on a roll at present with Charles Leclerc and Sebastian Vettel racking up three wins in a row between them and a fourth will really have the alarm bells ringing at Mercedes headquarters in Brackley and Stuttgart.

Lewis Hamilton, despite being a hefty 65 points clear of Mercedes team mate Valtteri Bottas with six races remaining, has already expressed concern that Ferrari are looking hungrier than the champions.

"If anyone in the team feels relaxed they need talking to, because we should all be feeling the pain," the Briton said after a strategy error left him fourth in Singapore behind a Ferrari one-two and Red Bull's Max Verstappen.

"These next few races are going to be tough," added the five-time world champion, who won in Sochi a year ago — his third Russian success. The Black Sea resort circuit has also been good to Bottas in the past, with the Finn taking his first fastest lap in Formula One and first race win there. "I've got some unfinished business in Sochi. It has normally been a good track for me and I need to make sure it will be again," said the Finn, who last year was ordered to move aside and let Hamilton win.

His hopes of settling scores will not have been boosted by Mercedes also making sure he slowed and did not get ahead of Hamilton in Singapore after lapping faster on fresh tyres following his pit stop.

Real resurgence

Ferrari have now won on the flat-out speed circuits of Spa and Monza as well as slow and twisty Singapore, and Sochi, different again, offers the chance to show the resurgence is real. "It's another circuit where we've come close to winning but never quite managed it," said Vettel, a four-time world champion and to date the only non-Mercedes driver to start on pole in Russia.

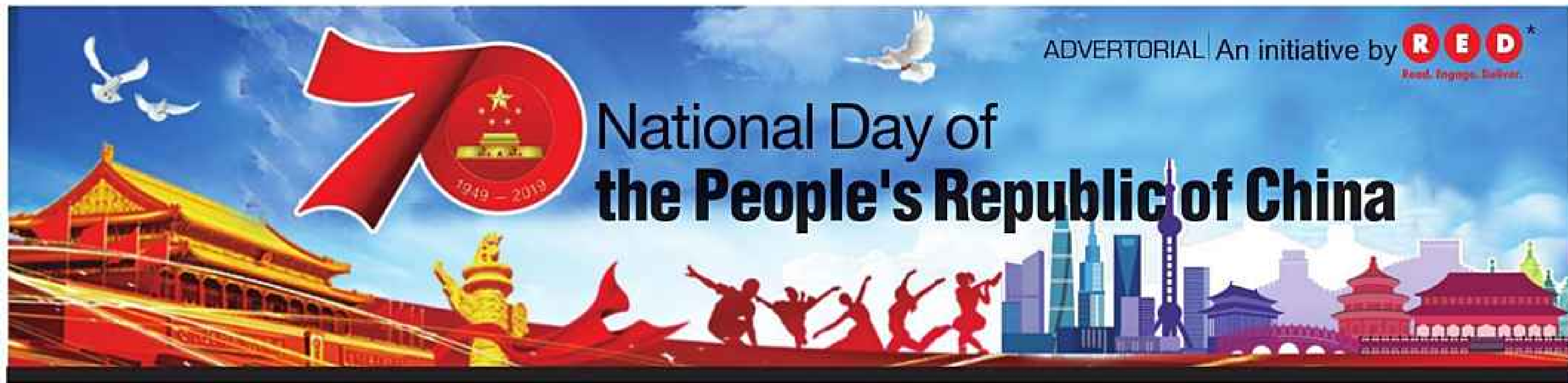
"I've started from the front row and in fact two years ago Ferrari locked out the front row, but we really want the satisfaction of taking that last step and winning," added the German, whose Singapore win was his first in 13 months.

Sochi's long straights should suit Ferrari but the smooth surface makes it a tricky track for drivers to hit the sweet spot with their tyres, and the layout also demands a very different aerodynamic set-up to Singapore. "We have made good progress on our car, especially in terms of our performance on high downforce tracks, and seem to be more competitive on tracks with various layouts now," said Leclerc.

"Time will tell whether we can be as strong here as we have been lately."

Only twice in five years has a driver from outside Mercedes and Ferrari stood on the podium in Sochi, and one was Bottas who finished third with Williams in 2014. The other was Mexican Sergio Perez for Force India, now Racing Point, in 2015.





M E S S A G E
H. E. SUN WEIDONG
AMBASSADOR OF CHINA TO INDIA



OCTOBER 1st this year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. This is a moment of great historical significance. Over the past 70 years since the founding of new China, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese people have worked hard and forged ahead defying all difficulties. One miracle after another have been created. The future and destiny of the Chinese nation have been fundamentally changed. China's economy has enjoyed sustained, sound and steady growth, the rule of law system has been improved, major achievements have been made in ethnic unity and progress, and remarkable progress has been made in promoting ecological civilization. People's living standards have been constantly improved, gross national income per person stood close to \$10,000 in 2018, and over 850 million people have been lifted out of poverty. China has blazed a path of socialism with Chinese characteristics and achieved great transformations from standing up and growing rich to becoming strong.

Over the 7 years since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the CPC Central Committee with comrade Xi Jinping at the core held high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics has united and led the whole party and people of all ethnic groups across the country and pursued coordinated progress in the five-sphere integrated plan and balanced progress in the four-pronged comprehensive strategy. Historic changes have taken place in the party and various causes of the nation. Socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. China is now the world's second largest economy, largest trader in goods and largest holder of foreign exchange reserves. China has become the largest trading partner of over 130 countries and regions. China accounted for more than 30 percent of global economic growth, making it the most significant driving force. Guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, the Chinese people are united and working tirelessly to achieve the two centenary goals and realize the Chinese dream of great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

In the face of complicated and profound changes in the international landscape, under the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy, China has stayed committed to the path of peaceful development, resolutely safeguarded China's sovereignty, security and development interests, advocated multilateralism and economic globalization, promoted the building of a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind. China has contributed its wisdom and solutions for world peace, stability and development.

China and India are neighbours linked by mountains and rivers, partners of win-win cooperation and friends hand in hand on their way forward. As we are both major developing countries, our two peoples have supported each other in pursuing national independence and development and helped each other in upholding global free trade. In recent years, China-India relations have maintained a positive development momentum. President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated the "hometown diplomacy" and held a historic Informal Summit in Wuhan, China, taking the closer developmental partnership between the two countries to a new height and putting it on the track of sound and stable development. China is India's second largest trading partner in goods, and India is China's largest trading partner in South Asia. More than 1,000 Chinese companies are doing business in India. They have put in a total investment of \$8 billion and created over 200,000 local jobs. Over two-thirds of Indian companies operating in China are making steady profits. China and India together account for nearly 40% of the world's population. There is huge potential and broad space for cooperation between us.

Next year will mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and India. Let us make full use of the opportunity of celebrating the 70th anniversary and continue to implement the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries, focus on cooperation, seek common development and write a new chapter in China-India relations.

Glorious Journey of the People's Republic of China

THE YEAR 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Through seventy years of hard work, the Communist Party of China has united and led the Chinese people on a glorious journey. The Chinese nation has achieved a tremendous transformation: it has stood up, grown rich and is becoming strong. Socialism with Chinese characteristics has been established, developed and improved. The Chinese people have made a great leap from inadequate food and clothing to moderate prosperity. The Chinese nation, with an entirely new posture, now stands tall and firm in the East.

Standing Up of the Chinese People



With Mao Zedong as their main representative, the Chinese Communists led the Chinese people to secure a victory in the new democratic revolution, founded the PRC and established the basic socialist system. The photo shows at 3 p.m. on October 1, 1949, Mao Zedong announcing the establishment of the PRC's central people's government during the founding ceremony.

ON OCTOBER 1, 1949, the first five-star red flag was raised in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. The Chinese people, who had experienced bitter struggle since modern times, finally saw the dawn of the rebirth of the Chinese nation. With the birth of the



The development of Pudong in Shanghai is a highlight of China's reform and opening up. The farmland in the past has been turned into the Lujiazui International Financial Center dotted with high-rise buildings. The photo taken on June 27, 2018 shows the full view of Pudong new area.

PRC, the Chinese people became masters of the country, society and their own destiny. They began to embark on a great journey of realizing a strong and prosperous country, national rejuvenation and people's happiness with full pride.

Spring Breeze of Reform and Opening-up

IN 1978, marked by the third plenary session of the 11th CPC Central Committee, China started the historical process of reform and opening-up.

The reform and opening-up is a great awakening of the Communist Party of China, and a great revolution in the history of the Chinese people and the Chinese nation. It is the great revolution that has brought unprecedented and profound changes to China, making reform and opening-up the most distinctive feature of contemporary China.

Reform and opening-up is a key move to determine the destiny of contemporary China, and to achieve the two centenary goals and the great

rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Forging Ahead in New Era

SINCE the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core has united the Chinese people of all ethnic groups to hold high the banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics and has been guided by Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. It has promoted the coordinated implementation of the five-sphere integrated plan including economic, political, cultural, social and ecological advancement and the four-pronged comprehensive strategy consisting of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, deepening reform in all areas, advancing law-based governance and exercising full and rigorous governance over the Party. Historic achievements in reform, opening-up and socialist modernization have been made, historic shifts in the cause of the Party and the

country have been promoted, and the socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era. China adheres to the vision of peace, development, and win-win cooperation, and constantly contributes Chinese wisdom and strength to foster world peaceful development. China and the people across the world will build a community with a shared future for mankind and jointly create a bright future for all!



The Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation opened in Beijing on April 26, 2019. Nearly 5,000 guests from more than 150 countries and 90 international organizations attended the forum. The photo shows Chinese President Xi Jinping and foreign leaders walking into the venue of the forum's opening ceremony.

China today stands at a new historical starting point. Though great achievements have been made, there are still many mountains to scale and many shoals to navigate. The Communist Party of China and the Chinese people will continue forging ahead on the road of socialism with Chinese characteristics while comprehensively deepening reform, pursuing high-quality development, further opening up, committing to peaceful development, promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, creating more brilliant Chinese miracles in the new era, and making greater contribution to the cause of human progress.

Seven Decades of China's Achievements

ECONOMY

China's economy has accelerated over the past seven decades, with gross domestic product rising at an average annual rate of 8.1 percent. From 1979 to 2018, China's economy grew by 9.4 percent annually on average, much higher than the world's average economic growth of 2.9 percent. In 1952, China's GDP was 30 billion U.S. dollars, while in 2018, its GDP reached 13.61 trillion U.S. dollars, an increase of 452.6 times. In 1978, China's GDP ranked 11th in the world, while in 2010, it became the second largest economy in the world. Gross national income per person reached 9,732 U.S. dollars in 2018, higher than the level seen in middle-income countries. Forex reserves reached 3.07 trillion U.S. dollars at the end of 2018, topping the world for the 13th straight year, while it stood at only 108 million dollars at the end of 1952.

POLITICS

With decades of hard work, socialism with Chinese characteristics has crossed the threshold into a new era. The Chinese nation has achieved a tremendous transformation and come to embrace the brilliant prospects of rejuvenation. We have actively developed socialist democracy and advanced law-based governance. The path, the theory, the system, and the culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics have kept developing, blazing a new trail for developing countries to achieve modernization. The overarching task of upholding and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics is to realize socialist modernization and national rejuvenation, and that, on the basis of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, a two-step approach should be taken to build China into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful by the middle of the century.

CULTURE

In 2019, China's total number of world cultural heritage sites reaches 55, ranking first in the world. China has yielded fruitful results in cultural exchanges and communication with other countries. By the end of 2017, China had signed cultural cooperation agreements with 157 countries, and the number of cultural exchange plans totalled nearly 800. Overseas Chinese cultural centers and Confucius Institutes, traditional Chinese cultures such as Chinese acrobatics, martial arts, calligraphy, Beijing Opera and Tai Chi have been further introduced to the world. By 2017, over 4,000 various cultural events took place in Chinese cultural centers in foreign countries, and over 8 million people were directly involved. By the end of 2017, 525 Confucius Institutes and 1,113 Confucius classrooms had been established in 146 countries and regions.

SOCIETY

The 1.3 billion Chinese are no longer threatened by food or clothing shortages, more than 850 million Chinese are out of poverty, 770 million are employed, nine-year compulsory education is provided across the country, and China's universal health care system and social security system lead the world in scale. Life expectancy in 1949 was around 35 years, and it rose to 77 years in 2018. Maternal and infant mortality also decreased substantially, from 1,500 per 100 thousand and 200 per thousand 70 years ago, respectively, to

18.3 per 100 thousand and 6.1 per thousand in 2018, both meeting the Millennium Development Goals ahead of schedule. The number of impoverished people dropped from 770 million in 1978 to 16.6 million in 2018, and the poverty rate dropped from 97.5% to 1.7%. By the end of 2020, we will have taken all rural residents living below the current poverty line out of poverty, putting an end to absolute poverty in our country and creating a miracle in the history of development and poverty reduction. We are also on course to attain the first centenary goal by 2020, i.e. completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

ECOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION

Implementing its new concept of innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, China has exerted intensive efforts to treat pollution with the enforcement of much stricter environmental laws and problem-oriented environmental supervision. China has gained remarkable achievements in such fields as prevention and treatment of air and water pollution, ecological construction, low-carbon development, energy conservation and emission reductions. China's carbon dioxide emission per 10,000 yuan (nearly \$1,500) of GDP declined 4 percent in 2018. By the end of 2018, China's installed capacity for renewable energy reached 728,000 megawatts, up 12 percent on a year-on-year basis. China had contributed to at least 25 percent of the increase in the global green leaf area since the early 2000s. Over the past 40 years, China's forest coverage rate has increased nearly 10 percent to 21.66 percent. China is home to the world's largest man-made forest in scale.

DIPLOMACY

China's diplomacy has established a fine tradition with distinctive features, including independence as the cornerstone of China's foreign policy, concern for the common good of humanity, pursuit of equity and justice, commitment to win-win outcomes, the mission of facilitating domestic development, and dedication to serving the Chinese people. Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy is the fundamental guideline of China's diplomatic work in the new era. China firmly safeguards national sovereignty, security and development interests, and devotes itself to the joint construction of a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind with other countries. China is moving closer to the center stage of the world as a widely recognized promoter of world peace, contributor to global development and upholder of international order. China has dispatched 40,000 peacekeepers to around 30 UN peacekeeping operations since 1990, the most among all the five permanent UN Security Council members. It is also the second largest donor country for UN peacekeeping missions. China is playing an increasingly prominent role in providing constructive solutions to resolving international hotspot issues. China has been promoting the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to improve connectivity and cooperation on a transcontinental scale. China is firm in upholding the multilateral trading system and advancing trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. China has deeply engaged in regional and sub-regional cooperation, and concluded 17 free trade agreements with 25 countries and regions.

Over 1000 Chinese enterprises continue to invest and contribute to India's growth, deepening economic ties.



CHAMBER OF CHINESE ENTERPRISES IN INDIA